DOG&SCISSORS 1

[ORIGINAL WORK] SHUNSUKE SARAI

[ART] KAMON OOBA

CHARACTER DESIGN: TETSUHIRO NABESHIMA

CHAPTER 0
IN THE INTERLUDE BETWEEN DREAMS AND REALITY...
...AT THE VERY MOMENT BEFORE I THOUGHT I MIGHT BLACK OUT...
...I KNOW I SAW IT.
SORRY I MADE YOU WAIT.
THE HERO...
...HAS ARRIVED.

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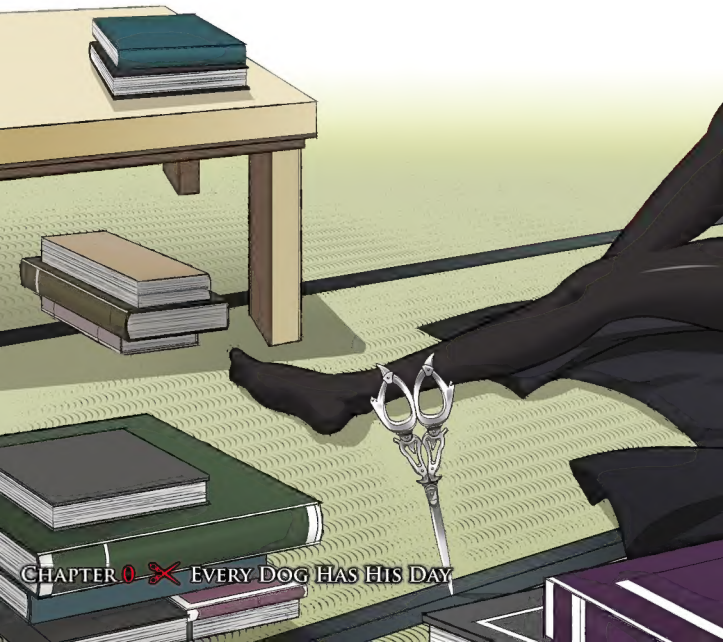

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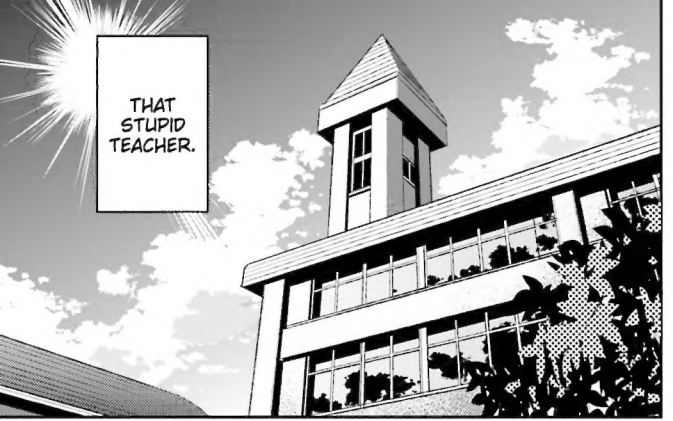
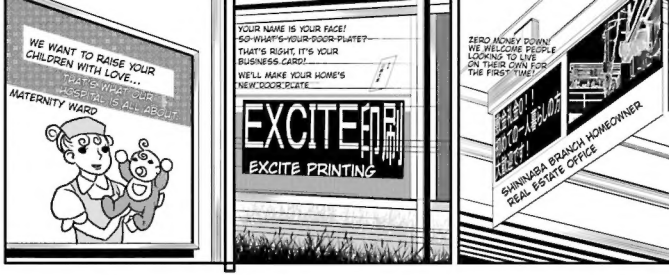

THAT STUPID TEACHER.

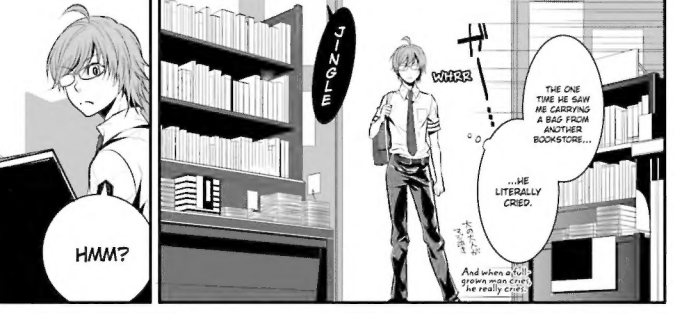
I ACTUALLY ATTENDED SCHOOL TODAY...
急用により SOMETHING CAME UP.
自習 IMPROMPTU STUDY HALL
...AND IT'S A STUDY HALL?
THANKS TO THAT...

...I READ ALL THE BOOKS I'D BROUGHT ALONG WITH ME.
AND RIGHT NOW...
...ALL I HAVE TO READ ON THE TRAIN RIDE HOME IS...


WE WANT TO RAISE YOUR CHILDREN WITH LOVE...
THAT'S WHAT OUR HOSPITAL IS ALL ABOUT.
MATERNITY WARD
YOUR NAME IS YOUR FACE! SO WHAT'S YOUR DOOR PLATE?
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S YOUR BUSINESS CARD!
WE'LL MAKE YOUR HOME'S NEW DOOR PLATE
EXCITE印刷
EXCITE PRINTING
ZERO MONEY DOWN! WE WELCOME PEOPLE LOOKING TO LIVE ON THEIR OWN FOR THE FIRST TIME!
SHININABA BRANCH HOMEOWNER REAL ESTATE OFFICE

NEXT STOP IS SHININABA.
SHININABA.
K-KLACK
Damn, next I'll have to read all the advertisements from consumer financing companies.
K-KLACK
GRIP
UGH, I KNEW IT.
I SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT A BOOK NEAR SCHOOL.

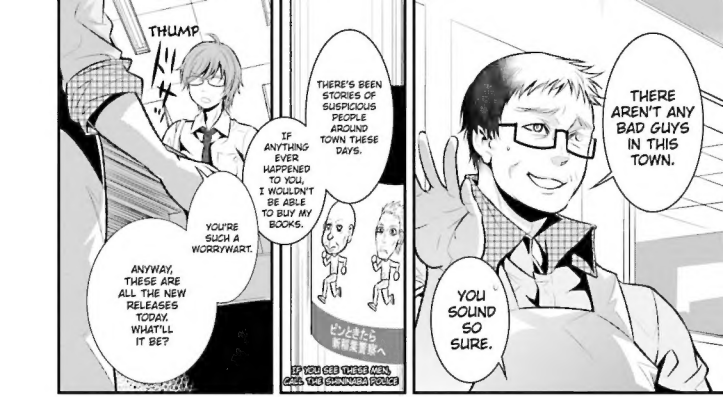
SHININABA
BUT STILL, I'D FEEL ASHAMED...
...SHOPPING ANYWHERE OTHER THAN THE OLD MAN'S SHOP.
FOR BOOKS, COME TO HONDA
HONDA BOOKSTORE


HMM?
JINGLE
WHER
THE ONE TIME HE SAW ME CARRYING A BAG FROM ANOTHER BOOKSTORE...
...HE LITERALLY CRIED.
And when a full grown man cries, he really cries.

I don't think someone with actual business sense would buy something like this.
OH.
NEW TODAY
MISTER.
HE BOUGHT SOMETHING WEIRD FROM THE 100-YEN STORE AGAIN.
THRIVING BUSINESS

OTHER-WISE...
...YOU'LL BE BUR-GLARIZED.
HMMM. I'LL BE FINE.

HARUMI-KUN.
WELCOME.
YOU CAN'T BE LIKE THAT, MISTER.
YOU HAVE TO COME OUT AS SOON AS THE BELL DINGS.
THRIVING BUSINESS


THUMP
YOU'RE SUCH A WORRYWART.
ANYWAY, THESE ARE ALL THE NEW RELEASES TODAY. WHAT'LL IT BE?
IF ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO YOU, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BUY MY BOOKS.
THERE'S BEEN STORIES OF SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE AROUND TOWN THESE DAYS.
IF YOU SEE THESE MEN, CALL THE SHINJUKU POLICE
YOU SOUND SO SURE.
THERE AREN'T ANY BAD GUYS IN THIS TOWN.

YEP, YEP.
THAT'S THE FACE I'M LOOKING FOR.
BOOKS!

STAMP
STAMP
YOU GOT IT!
I'LL TAKE...
...ALL OF THEM.
YES, YES, THIS IS IT.
THIS IS THE STUFF!
THE OLD MAN GETS ME!

MISTER.
YOU'VE GOT NO BUSINESS SENSE.
I'LL THROW THIS ONE IN FOR FREE.
GIVE IT A READ.
本田書店
WHAT'S THIS BOOK?
HELL RICE GRUEL
YOUICHI HAMADA
ON A JOURNEY TO FIND THE WORLD'S EPICDEST YOUICHI HAMADA'S SHOCKING DEBUT WORK!!
SORRY, I FORGOT THAT ONE.
HE'S NEW, BUT A PRETTY GOOD WRITER.
Despite the title. . .
WELCOME
いらっしゃいませ
WHRRR
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THAT'S RIGHT.
I, KAZUHITO HARUMI, AM A BOOKWORM.

I LOVE TO READ.
I FEEL ILL UNLESS I'M READING.

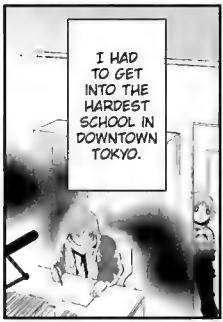
AND SINCE I WASN'T ABLE TO READ A BOOK ON THE TRAIN...
...I'M WAY BELOW MY READING QUOTA!!

I WONDER HOW MANY PAGES I CAN READ...
...ON THE 10-MINUTE WALK TO MY APARTMENT SUMIYASO.
"WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING WHEN YOU WALK."
I CAN STILL HEAR...
...MY MOM'S NAGGING.

LIKE I CARE!!
NOW INTO THE WORLD OF BOOKS!!
本田書店
STEP
SQUEAK
SSSHHH
I WON'T READ AND WALK AT THE SAME TIME ANYMORE.
YOU WERE RIGHT.
SORRY, MOTHER.
102
FOR AT LEAST THREE DAYS.
HUH?
KAZUHITO HARUMI-SAMA

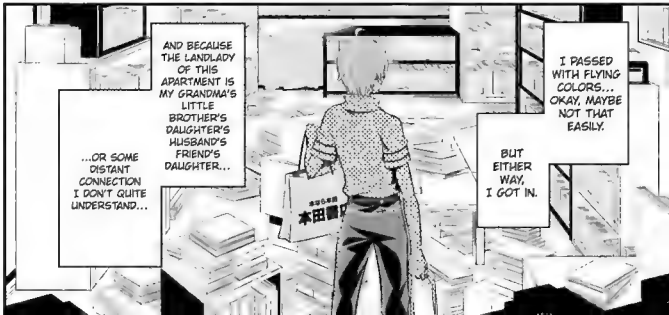
101
KLATCH

和尺 岡山は いいとこだよ!
OKAYAMA'S A GREAT PLACE! MADOKA
円香
IT'S FROM MADOKA.
IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE I LEFT MY FAMILY.


I HAD TO GET INTO THE HARDEST SCHOOL IN DOWNTOWN TOKYO.

SINCE I WANTED TO STAY IN TOKYO SO BADLY, MY FATHER ALLOWED IT ON ONE CONDITION.

IT WAS WINTER OF MY THIRD YEAR IN JUNIOR HIGH WHEN IT WAS DECIDED THAT WE'D TRANSFER TO OKAYAMA FOR MY FATHER'S WORK.
Rejected!

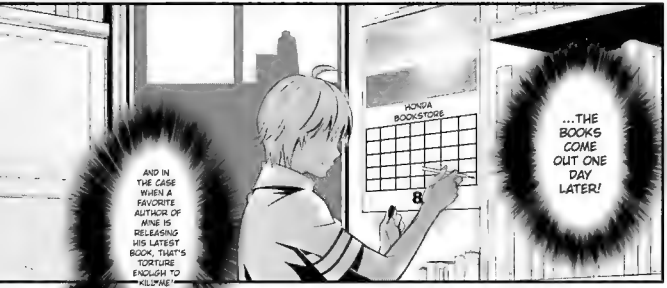

...OR SOME DISTANT CONNECTION I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND...
AND BECAUSE THE LANDLADY OF THIS APARTMENT IS MY GRANDMA'S LITTLE BROTHER'S DAUGHTER'S HUSBAND'S FRIEND'S DAUGHTER...
BUT EITHER WAY, I GOT IN.
I PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS... OKAY, MAYBE NOT THAT EASILY.

CURRY BUKKAKE UDON.
SO IT'S BASICALLY CURRY.
IT'S SOME KIND OF STRATEGY OF HERS TO LURE ME TO OKAYAMA.

...I GET TO LIVE HAPPILY ON MY OWN.

AFTER ALL, IN OKAYAMA...
FWAP
NEW RELEASES GUIDE
NO WAY, NO HOW.
IT'S FUTILE.

?
Hmm.


AND IN THE CASE WHEN A FAVORITE AUTHOR OF MINE IS RELEASING HIS LATEST BOOK. THAT'S TORTURE ENOUGH TO KILL ME!
HONDA BOOKSTORE
8
...THE BOOKS COME OUT ONE DAY LATER!

AND!
レッドパック7冊新書、発売予定
RED BOX NEWEST WORK FIVE PAPERBACK EDITIONS SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE.
10
SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S NEWEST RELEASE!
SCIENCE COLLECTION AUGUST NEW RELEASES TWO LITERARY ARTS MAGAZINES

AUGUST 10TH

THE SHOP'S GOING TO OPEN IN FIVE...
...FOUR, THREE, TWO, ONE...
TODAY IS ONE SUCH DAY!
MY FAVORITE AUTHOR...
本田書店
...SHINOBI AKIYAMA'S NEWEST BOOK GOES ON SALE TODAY!
CLANG
GOOD MORNING, HARUMI.
BAH!

HERE'S THE NEWEST BOOK BY SHINOBI AKIYAMA.
THAT'LL BE 1,250 YEN, INCLUDING TAX.
本田書店
TH-THANK YOU!
DON'T NEED A RECEIPT!
How about your card?
THIS INCREDIBLE SERVICE!
THIS IS WHAT MAKES HONDA BOOKSTORE SO FANTASTIC
STAMP STAMP

SPEAKING OF SHINOBU AKIYAMA...
!
ANY NEW INFORMATION ON THE LAST VOLUME OF HER DEADLY SINS SERIES?
NO, UNFORTUNATELY.
POSTPONED AGAIN?
EITHER WAY, I STILL HAVE SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S NEW BOOK!
I'VE GOT TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO READ AKIYAMA'S BOOK...
...AT MY GO-TO CAFE SEIYOU TODAY!
CAFE SEIYOU
COFFEE
NEAPOLITAN
CLOCKWORK ORANGE JUICE
THE YELLOW COFFEE
PASTA MARCH

NOW ONTO THE WORLD OF READING!!
GOOD. IT'S DESERTED AGAIN.
PERFECT FOR A GOOD READ.

NOW READING...

READING REALLY IS THE BEST.
HAAH...
HITCH

THE WHITE BUTLER
THE ARAB KING
TO THE HOT SANDS, A MAN SCREAMS A ROAR OF LOVE IT'S A NEW SETTING FOR SHINOBU AKIYAMA!
BUT STILL!!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW ENGAGING IT WAS.
SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S NEW BOOK, THE WHITE BUTLER & THE ARAB KING...
...WAS FASCINAT-ING!

Your Highness, we mustn't.
BOYS' LOVE...?
THAT WAS THE LAST THING I WAS EXPECTING
IS SHE EXPLORING A NEW GENRE?
...
....
THERE ARE STILL MANY WORLDS I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT.
I WAS SO DESPERATE, I GOT COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN IT.
THE PORTRAYAL OF WHAT THE TWO WERE GOING THROUGH WAS FLAWLESS.
AS EXPECTED, SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS ARE AMAZING.
SHE WAS ABLE TO HOOK ME IN A GENRE THAT'S COMPLETELY FOREIGN TO ME.
TO THE HOT SANDS, A MAN SCREAMS A ROAR OF LOVE IT'S A NEW SETTING FOR SHINOBU AKIYAMA!
I BET SHE'S AN UPSTANDING WELL-READ PERSON OF CHARACTER.
BUT, BOYS' LOVE...?

MIRAGE OF FREEZE
A PERFECT, PERFECT DAY FOR BANANAFISH
CLINK
TWO HOURS LATER...

...HAAH.
IN THE END, I WENT RIGHT BACK TO HONDA BOOK-STORE...
...AND BOUGHT EVERY BOYS' LOVE NOVEL I COULD FIND.

SETTING ASIDE MY SHAME...
...IT'S GOOD THAT IT OPENED UP THIS NEW GENRE TO ME.
OH, LOOK AT THE TIME.
I WAS MORE EMBARRASSED THAN WHEN I BOUGHT EROTIC NOVELS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

BETTER HEAD HOME...
CLATTER
▷I REACHED FOR MY WALLET.
▷STILL NOTHING. JUST EMPTY SPACE.
H.EH.
▷BUT FELT NOTHING.
DID I DROP IT?! INSIDE IS...
WAIT... I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY AFTER MY BOYS' LOVE BINGE! MORE IMPORTANTLY...
MY WALLET'S GONE!
HUUUH?!

IT'S A RECORD OF ALL THE BOOKS I'VE READ HERE IN SHININABA.
MY POINT CARD WITH HONDA BOOKSTORE!!

THAT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN'T LOSE!
I'LL LOOK FOR IT!
AND IF I CAN'T FIND IT, I'LL GO TO THE POLICE.
But will the power of the state help me out over a point card?

...I'LL BEG HIM FOR THE CARD BACK, EVEN IF I HAVE TO GET ON MY HANDS AND KNEES!
HE WOULD NEVER DREAM THAT THE POINT CARD WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY WALLET TO ME.

和人
KAZUHITO
月 日
___TH
HIGASHIKAWA HIGH SCHOOL
東川高等学校
WAIT... MY ADDRESS IS WRITTEN ON MY SCHOOL ID.

A GOOD PERSON WOULD PROBABLY SEND IT BACK TO ME.
BUT IF A BAD PERSON PICKED IT UP...

ALL RIGHT. I'VE DECIDED ON MY COURSE OF ACTION!
NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, BACK TO THE BOOKS.
IT'S READING TIME!
HAAH...
As unsatisfiable as before
NOW TO REALLY CALM DOWN.
CLATTER
AS IF!
I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO PICK UP MORE BOYS' LOVE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS!

HMM?
I SAID HAND IT OVER!
URK !!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
SHUT UP AND JUST DO IT!
K-KLICK
HE'S GOT THE EYES OF A MADMAN.
ANYONE CAN SEE HE'S CRAZY.
HEY.
!!
BFFT!

"WHAT ARE YOU MAKING ME LOOK AT?!"
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?!
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN WHEN THEY SAY YOUR "MIND GOES BLANK."
TRMBL TRMBL
I COULD NEVER ANSWER BACK WITH THAT.
....
WHOA... WHAT IS HAPPENING?
GRIT
....
YOU GUYS! STAND UP WHERE YOU ARE!
THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE HERE...
...BESIDES ME?
HMM? DID HE...
...JUST SAY "YOU GUYS"?

SKRITCH SKRITCH
SKRITCH SKRITCH
SKRITCH SKRITCH
SHE'S BLACK FROM HEAD TO TOE.
THE PERSONIFI-CATION OF NIGHT.
CLICK
HEY! I TOLD YOU TO STAND UP!

...YOU CHEEKY LITTLE BITCH.
CLICK
CAN SHE NOT HEAR HIM OR IS SHE CHOOSING TO IGNORE HIM?
SQUEEZE
EITHER WAY, THINGS ARE GONNA TURN UGLY!
THAT DOES IT!
BUMP
!
DASH
BLAM
YOU...!
...!

KRASH
...
DAMN IT...
LET GO!
BLAM
YEAH, RIGHT!
EEE!
CLATTER
SHATTER

CONK
SO LONG.
BLAM

...SOUND OF A PEN WRITING.
...UNFALTERING...
...WAS THE SOLID AND SHARP...
...WHAT CONTINUED TO RING IN MY EARS...
SKRITCH SKRITCH
SKRITCH SKRITCH
IN THE GRIPS OF DEATH...
WHAT IS THIS?
SHOULDN'T MY HEART BE RACING?
BUT SUCH EXPECTATIONS ARE IN VAIN.
...HAS ALREADY STOPPED.
MY HEART...

SOMEWHERE UNFAMILIAR TO ME...
...I'M...
...FALLING.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
HOW DID I GET HERE?
...!

I GOT SHOT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
CALM DOWN!
LAST I REMEMBER I WAS IN MY USUAL CAFE SEIYOU.
MY THOUGHTS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE.
IT'S NO USE. I CAN'T THINK.
WHICH MUST MEAN...
UUH...
I DON'T WANT TO CONSIDER IT, BUT...
...IT REALLY IS WHAT I FEAR.
I GET IT NOW. I'M...
...DEAD.
THOSE WORDS HAVE A CHILLING RING TO THEM.

IT'S A LITTLE PAINFUL TO THINK ABOUT THOSE I'VE LEFT BEHIND.
BUT I'M DEAD.
RIGHT NOW I STILL FEEL LIKE THIS IS HAPPENING TO SOMEONE ELSE.
THE OLD MAN AT HONDA.
AND MY PET TAMA.
MADOKA.
DAD. MOM.
P.S. DEAR MADOKA...
...PLEASE WIPE MY COMPUTER IF YOU CAN.
....
STILL...

THIS SCENE OF THE AFTERLIFE FROM THE TRAIN WINDOW.
HOW LONG IS THIS GOING TO GO ON FOR?
STILL... THE CONCEPT OF HOSPITALITY PROBABLY DOESN'T EXIST IN THIS MONOTONY.
WAIT..
MORE IMPORTANTLY..
I'M COMPLETELY NAKED!
...?
MY POCKET... WAIT...
HMPH
OH, WELL.
IF I'VE GOT TIME, I'LL READ SOMETHING.
RUMMAGE

IF I'M DEAD, I CAN'T READ ANYMORE.

AND WORST OF ALL!!
FLASH
THERE ARE STILL SO MANY BOOKS I'VE NEVER SEEN...
MASTERPIECES, POOR WORKS, SLEEPER HITS, LABORIOUS WORKS, EXCELLENT WORKS, FAMOUS PIECES.
TO BE HONEST, THIS IS MORE FRIGHTENING THAN DYING.
THIS IS BAD.

SHINOBU AKIYAMA
THE FINAL VOLUME IN MY FAVORITE SERIES!
SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S DEADLY SINS SERIES.
THE FINAL SEVENTH VOLUME THAT'S BEEN DELAYED AND DELAYED.
One of these days
It depends on the author and the publishers
I wonder when it'll be out
come out
近日発売！
I CAN'T REST IN PEACE WITHOUT READING IT!
MAYBE I CAN BECOME A RESIDUAL GHOST AT HONDA BOOKSTORE.
...?!!
DEADLY SINS
FINAL VOLUME OF THE SERIES LUST NOW BEING WRITTEN!
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
LEARN FROM FONTAINE BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY!!!
WHY ARE THE FOX AND WOLF ALWAYS THE BAD GUYS?

WWOOAAAAH

LUNGE

SHLIP

...HAVING NOT READ IT!

CHOMP

?!

I CAN'T DIE...

色欲 LUST

SHINOBU AKIYAMA

THAT BINDING. COULD IT BE...?

BUT IT CAN'T BE. IT HASN'T BEEN RELEASED YET.

IS IT AN ILLUSION BECAUSE OF HOW BADLY I WANT TO READ IT?

OR IS IT A NICE TOUCH, COURTESY OF THE AFTERLIFE?

LUST

I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS!

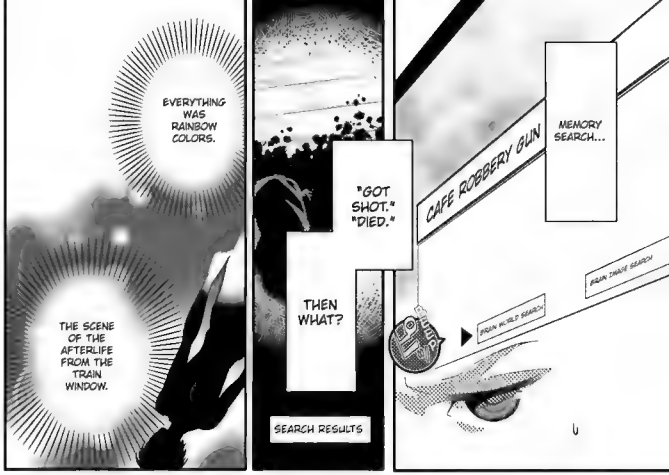
FINE.

I CAN'T DIE...
LUST
色欲
LUST
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
THAT BINDING. COULD IT BE...?
BUT IT CAN'T BE. IT HASN'T BEEN RELEASED YET.
IS IT AN ILLUSION BECAUSE OF HOW BADLY I WANT TO READ IT?
OR IS IT A NICE TOUCH, COURTESY OF THE AFTERLIFE?
LUST
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS!
FINE.

LUNGE
UWOOOAAAAH!
SHLIP
CHOMP
?!
...HAVING NOT READ IT!

BONK!
!!
HUH?
OOOP
HERE GOES...!
DAMN IT, THIS TIME FOR SURE!
SHOO
ZSSH
Teeth marks?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
OOOOOOWWW!

IGGY
HEY.
YOU ALIVE?
PINCH
SO SLEEPY.
YOU'RE ALIVE, RIGHT?
I WANNA KEEP SLEEPING.
WHAT THE HECK? QUIT BUGGING ME.
MY ALARM HASN'T GONE OFF YET.
I CAN STILL SLEEP.
AH, YOU WERE JUST SLEEPING
GOOD
I TREATED YOU, SO YOU SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
WHAT THE-?!
WHAT WAS THE LAST THING I DID?
OH, YEAH.
I GOT SHOT.
AND I DIED.
....!!
JUMP


EVERYTHING WAS RAINBOW COLORS.
THE SCENE OF THE AFTERLIFE FROM THE TRAIN WINDOW.
"GOT SHOT." "DIED."
THEN WHAT?
SEARCH RESULTS
CAFE ROBBERY GUN
MEMORY SEARCH...
PAIN IMAGE SEARCH
PAIN WORD SEARCH

NO RAINBOWS. JUST COLORS.
YELLOW WALLS.
A WHITE AND YELLOWISH GREEN FLOOR.

色欲
LUST
SHINOBU AKIHITA
I CAN STILL...
IN OTHER WORDS... IT'S WHAT I THINK IT MEANS?
I'M...ALIVE?
WHICH MEANS...

HEY, PUPPY. YOU FEELING BETTER?
HUH? WAS THAT MY VOICE JUST NOW?
IT SOUNDED LIKE A DOG'S HOWL.
...READ BOOKS!!
AROOO!
OH!
AND WHAT'S THIS AFRO-HEADED GUY TALKING ABOUT?
BUT YOU STAY LYING DOWN.
YOU HAVE TO REST AND GET YOUR STRENGTH BACK
PASSH!
WHO'S HE CALLING A PUPPY?
I'll keep you in here for a while.
WITH ALL THIS RAIN...
...I WAS AFRAID WHEN I SAW YOU SHIVERING IN THAT CARDBOARD BOX.
SSSHH
I HAVE A NAME AND IT'S KAZUHITO HARUMI.
!!
CLUNK
YOU! YOU'RE THAT DOG FROM BEFORE...

SNAP
AAH...
AAAAAAH.
THIS IS REALLY BAD!
WHOA... OH, NO.
THIS IS BAD.

AROOOOO!!
I'M A DOOOOOGGGG !!
MM-HM, THAT'S THE SPIRIT.
THE FEELINGS I WISHED TO EXPRESS...
...CAME OUT AS A DOG'S HOWL.

...BUT THIS DEVELOPMENT TAKES THE CAKE.
PEOPLE OFTEN SAY "REALITY IS STRANGER THAN FICTION"...

AND THE COVERS OF THIS AFRO GUY'S FAVORITE BOOKS.
WAIT...
...AND THE WRITING ON THE POSTER.
8/1
...ARE THE DATES ON THE CALENDAR...
AND THE PRINT I CAN READ FROM HERE...
I GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
Yipe! Yipe!
ギャウン!
BOOKS! I WANT TO READ BOOKS!
THIS IS TORTURE!
NO! I DON'T WANT KIBBLE!
DON'T TELL ANY-BODY.
GRRRR
HERE!
CLACK
AH...
RESTING

I'LL JUST STOP THINKING.

Aaw, is he feeling unwell again?

I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS.

...I WANT WRITTEN WORDS SO BAD MY MIND'S ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE.

EVEN IF I TRY...

PET SHOP IGGY

IT'S NO GOOD.

...MORE THAN WHEN I FIRST DIED.

DEATH IS APPROACHING...

AAH.

THE WORLD IS BECOMING A BLANK PAGE.

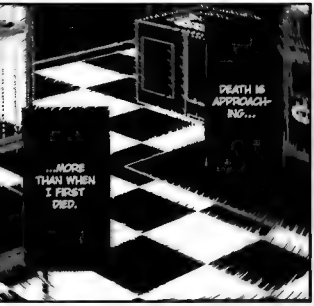
CLIK

I WANT TO READ A BOOK

I WANT TO READ A BOOK

Aaw, is he feeling unwell again?
I'LL JUST STOP THINKING.
I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS.

...I WANT WRITTEN WORDS SO BAD MY MIND'S ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE.
EVEN IF I TRY...
IT'S NO GOOD.
IGGY


DEATH IS APPROACHING...
...MORE THAN WHEN I FIRST DIED.

AAH.
THE WORLD IS BECOMING A BLANK PAGE.
CLIK

I WANT TO READ A BOOK

IS THAT WHY...
...I'M DREAMING THIS?
CLIK
CLIK
IT FEELS LIKE JUST A FAIRYTALE.
CLIK
THE IMPRESSIVE SCENE...
...LIKE ON THAT HERALDS THE BEGINNING...
CLIK

IN THE INTERLUDE BETWEEN DREAMS AND REALITY...
...AT THE VERY MOMENT BEFORE I THOUGHT I MIGHT BLACK OUT...
...I KNOW I SAW IT.
PET SH
IGGY
SORRY I MADE YOU WAIT.
ZSH!!

CREAK

THE SILHOUETTE THAT OPENED THE DOORS...

...AND ENTERED THE SHOP.

THE HERO...

...HAS ARRIVED.

THAT FIGURE, BATHED IN THE BACKLIGHT...

...WAS CERTAINLY AS PICTURESQUE AS A HERO.

...

HUH?

CREAK
THE SILHOUETTE THAT OPENED THE DOORS...
...AND ENTERED THE SHOP.
THE HERO...
...HAS ARRIVED.

THAT FIGURE, BATHED IN THE BACKLIGHT...
...WAS CERTAINLY AS PICTURESQUE AS A HERO.
...
HUH?

SWISH
BAM BAM BAM
?!
UH... A-ARE YOU A CUS-TOMER?
CHK
CHK
WH...
WHAT IS WITH THIS LADY?

HUH?!
CLATTER
IS IT YOU?
M-M-M-MISS!!
PLEASE REFRAIN!
CRICK
FLAKE
HUH?!
Super metal-like Orichalcum? Mikirakane?

IS IT YOU?
?!
....
ARE YOU... ...TALKING TO ME?
HUH? WH... WHAT THE?!
HOW MUCH IS THIS DOG?
?!
I'M SORRY, MA'AM.
HE'S NOT FOR SALE.
HOW MUCH IS HE?
I'M TELLING YOU...

JUDGING BY THIS CONVERSATION...
HOW. MUCH. DOES. HE. COST?
HE'S NOT FOR SALE.

THIS LADY'S LIKE A MINEFIELD!
WHIMP...
ALL THE OTHER DOGS ARE COWERING AWAY.
HUH? I'M GOING TO BE OWNED BY THIS SCISSOR LADY?
GRRR...

SNIP
YIPE! YIPE!
DON'T GIVE UP, AFRO!
YOU CAN DO IT, AFRO!
OH, NO. MY FUTURE'S BEING DECIDED!

SNIP
I...I MEAN IT, HE...
...DOESN'T HAVE A PRICE TAG...
SNIP
EEE!
HE... HE WAS ABANDONED SO I TOOK HIM IN!
HE... HE'S NOT...
SNIP
...FOR SALE.
....

ALL RIGHT.
HE'S ALL YOURS.
GOOD.
NOW HOW MUCH?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ANYTHING.

LIKE I SAID BEFORE ...
...HE'S A STRAY. NOT ONE OF OURS.
I'LL CONSIDER YOU HIS ADOPTIVE FAMILY.
ARGH. I'M THE PERSON AT THE CENTER OF THIS, AND I'M BEING COMPLETELY IGNORED.

MY FUTURE'S BEING DECIDED FOR ME.
YOU DID WELL, AFRO.
SHE WAS JUST TOO MUCH FOR YOU.
I DON'T NEED ANY MONEY.
JUST...

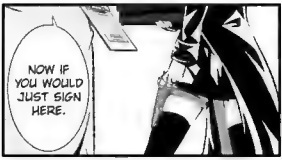
...YES.
OF COURSE.

JUST TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.

I'LL BUY THIS CAGE.
AND COULD YOU CHOOSE THE OTHER GOODS PEOPLE BOUGHT WHEN THEY BOUGHT THIS?
LOOKING AT THIS LADY UP CLOSE...

I KNOW.

BUT I'D FEEL BAD TAKING HIM FOR FREE.
LIKE THEY SAY, THERE'S NOTHING MORE PRICEY THAN SOMETHING THAT COMES FOR FREE


NOW IF YOU WOULD JUST SIGN HERE.

...SHE HAS A NICE FACE.
And please leave anything heavy delivered to me.
I'LL PUT IT ON MY CARD.

S W I P
RIGHT.

AH!
CRASH
WHO LETS GO OF SOMETHING WITH BOTH HANDS AT THE SAME TIME?!
BASH!!
YIPE!
IS THIS GIRL STUPID?
Whine...
I GRUMBLED MY COMPLAINT...
...STILL STUCK AS A DOG.
CHAPTER 0 END
WHAT'S GOING TO BECOME OF MY SECOND SHOT AT LIFE!!

CHAPTER 1 ✂ A DOG COMES TO A MERRY HOME

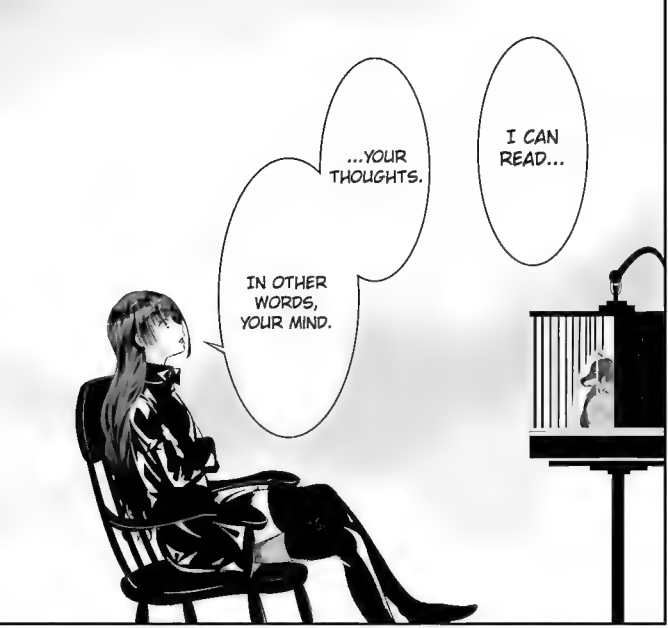
DOG&SCISSORS

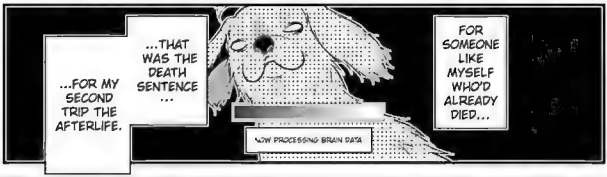
KAZUHITO HARUMI IS A BOOKWORM.
FLIP
...?!
...THAT HE'S ONLY ALIVE TO READ THE LATEST BOOK OF HIS FAVORITE AUTHOR.
IT WOULD BE NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY...
DEADLY SINS RELEASED TODAY!
LUST
SEEEEP
AH...
!!
WHAT IS THIS? A PRINTING ERROR?!
OH, NO.
IT'S ON THIS PAGE TOO.

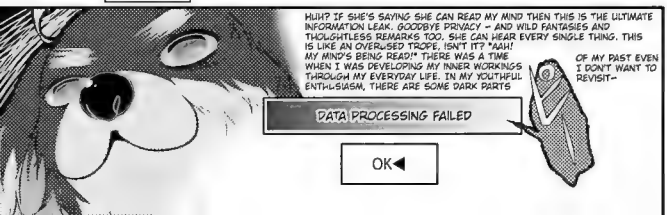
UWAAAAAAH?!
....
A DREAM...?
I SEE LOTS OF THINGS, BUT...
...NO SIGN OF ANY BOOKS.
CREAK
WHERE AM I?!

YOU'RE FINALLY UP.
DOG.
CREAK
THE BLACK QUEEN.
SHEESH.
QUIT YELLING ABOUT EVERY LITTLE THING, DOG.
YOU'RE ...
IS IT YOU?
...THE SCISSORS LADY FROM THE PET SHOP!
?!
QUIT CRYING AND TALK, DOG.
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
YOU'RE MAKING AN AWFUL RACKET, DOG.

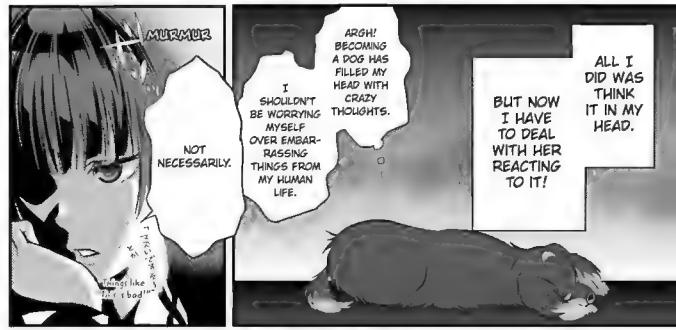
DON'T CRY, DOG. YOU'RE GIVING ME A HEAD-ACHE, DOG.
SHUT UP AND TALK, DOG.
EITHER THAT OR NEVER OPEN YOUR TRAP AGAIN, DOG.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!!
Are you Princess Kaguya from The Bamboo Cutter?!
THERE.
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT, DOG.
...?
...HUH? DID I...
...SPEAK ALOUD JUST NOW? WITH MY MOUTH SHUT...?
CREAK
...WAIT, WHAAAAAT?!
OH, WELL.
TO EXPLAIN IT EASY ENOUGH FOR A DOG TO UNDER-STAND...


I CAN READ...
...YOUR THOUGHTS.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR MIND.


FOR SOMEONE LIKE MYSELF WHO'D ALREADY DIED...
...THAT WAS THE DEATH SENTENCE ...
...FOR MY SECOND TRIP THE AFTERLIFE.
NOW PROCESSING BRAIN DATA


HUH? IF SHE'S SAYING SHE CAN READ MY MIND THEN THIS IS THE ULTIMATE INFORMATION LEAK. GOODBYE PRIVACY ~ AND WILD FANTASIES AND THOUGHTLESS REMARKS TOO. SHE CAN HEAR EVERY SINGLE THING. THIS IS LIKE AN OVERUSED TROPE, ISN'T IT? *AAH! MY MIND'S BEING READ!* THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS DEVELOPING MY INNER WORKINGS THROUGH MY EVERYDAY LIFE. IN MY YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM, THERE ARE SOME DARK PARTS
OF MY PAST EVEN I DON'T WANT TO REVISIT~
DATA PROCESSING FAILED
OK◀

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOLER.
STOOOOOOP!!


ALL I DID WAS THINK IT IN MY HEAD.
BUT NOW I HAVE TO DEAL WITH HER REACTING TO IT!
ARGH! BECOMING A DOG HAS FILLED MY HEAD WITH CRAZY THOUGHTS.
I SHOULDN'T BE WORRYING MYSELF OVER EMBARRASSING THINGS FROM MY HUMAN LIFE.
MURMUR
NOT NECESSARILY.
Things like that r bad!

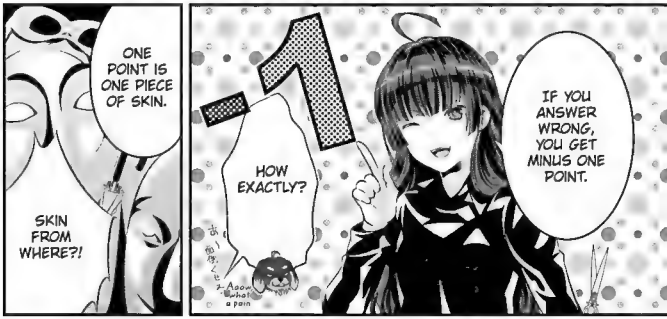
QUIT COMMENTING ON EVERY LITTLE THOUGHT I HAVE!
IS YOUR LITTLE MONODRAMA OVER NOW?
UWAA-AAH!
PLEASE DON'T READ MY MIND, I BEG YOU!
THEN STOP MAKING ME READ IT.

I'M ALREADY STARTING TO THINK LIKE A DOG.
MY HEART'S BREAKING.
DON'T READ IT!
I BEG OF YOU!
NO, WAY.
YOU GOTTA BE JOKING ME.
I'LL PROBABLY BE REDUCED TO...
FOR THE LAST TIME.
BE QUIET, YOU STUPOOCH.
WHAT'S A STUPOOCH?!
IT'S SHORT FOR A STUPID POOCH.
YOU BETTER LEARN IT, YOU IDIOT.
DID YOU JUST CALL ME AN IDIOT?!
WELL I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR MAKING SUCH A RACKET.
THIS IS AN ORDER.
MASK YOUR MIND, YOU NOISY DOG.

IGGY
IF YOU CAN MANAGE THAT, I'LL GIVE YOU A REWARD.
I DON'T NEED THAT. JUST HELP ME OUT!
Dogs these days get the best treats.
OH.
YOU SAID IT NOW, YOU CUR.
BEGGIN' TREATS
WHO'S THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU FROM THAT HELLISH PET SHOP?
ALL I DID WAS ESCAPE THAT HELL...
...IN FAVOR OF A WHOLE NEW HELL.
I'M STILL BETTER THAN THAT AFRO GUY, AREN'T I?
DON'T MAKE FUN OF HIM! HE'S A GOOD GUY!
YOU CHEEKY LITTLE...
DIE!
SWISH
I DON'T KNOW HER BOILING POINT!
ANY MORE...

SNIP WHAT OFF?! FROM WHERE?!
...GRIPING FROM YOU...
...AND I'LL SNIP THEM OFF.
THIS GIRL PROBABLY DOES WHAT SHE SAYS. SHE'S GRIM LIKE THAT.
OR MORE LIKE "ACTS FIRST, THINKS LATER" AND "STRIKES WHEN THE IRON'S HOT."
SHE'S AS GOOD AS HER WORD.
NOW...
YOU SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN THE MESSAGE.
GOOD.
NO, NO. SHE'S READING THESE THOUGHTS TOO.
CLEAR YOUR MIND. CLEAR YOUR MIND.
...I'VE BEEN BOUGHT BY A SADIST?
COULD IT BE...

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU.
ANSWER YES OR NO.
QUESTIONS?
I ALSO HAVE A TON OF QUESTIONS MYSELF.


IF YOU ANSWER WRONG, YOU GET MINUS ONE POINT.
-1
HOW EXACTLY?
ONE POINT IS ONE PIECE OF SKIN.
SKIN FROM WHERE?!

IF YOU ANSWER CORRECTLY, YOU GET A POINT.
ANSWER THE QUESTION!
...AND HOW EXACTLY DOES THAT WORK?
ONE POINT...
...GIVES YOU THE PRIVILEGE TO GET A PIECE OF YOUR SKIN CUT OFF!
DID I TRANSFER INTO HELL?!

QUESTION NUMBER ONE.
WERE YOU THE ONE YELLING IN MY HEAD?
UUH...
THAT'S A TOUGH QUESTION TO START OFF WITH.
TO BE HONEST... I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.
BUT IT SEEMS TO BE THE CASE THAT THIS SCISSORS LADY IS READING MY MIND, SO...
...YES.
GOOD.
NOW THAT I KNOW YOU'RE THE CULPRIT...
...I'M GOING TO EXECUTE YOUR SENTENCE.
WAIT! I ANSWERED HONESTLY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY POINT?!

YOUR POINT CARD WAS REPEALED YESTERDAY.
PLEASE USE YOUR MOBILE MEMBER-SHIP TODAY.
ANY LAST WORDS?
WHAT MOBILE MEMBER-SHIP?!
AND WHY ARE YOU ASKING FOR MY LAST WORDS?!
PULL
I'M GONNA DIE!
I HAVE QUESTIONS TOO!
DENIED!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THEM.
HOW OLD ARE YOU?!
...20.
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
SHE'S OLDER THAN ME?!
WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!
WHY CAN YOU READ MY MIND?!

...?
"READ YOUR MIND*?
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS MINDREADING OR WHAT, BUT...
...BUT THIS IS AN INVASION OF PRIVACY!
Put me back in my cage! I can't tell what you or you're doing next!

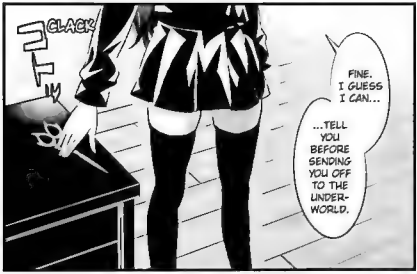
I CAN'T READ MINDS.
IT'S ONLY YOUR VOICE...
...THAT'S FORCING ITSELF TO BE HEARD IN MY HEAD.

ONLY ME?!
WHY ?!
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.
BUT STILL.
THE SOLUTION'S SIMPLE.

PLEASE SUGARCOAT THAT A LITTLE MORE!
IF YOU JUST DIE, THE NOISE WILL STOP.

THEN, I'LL KILL YOU DEAD.
DON'T THREATEN ME!!

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T TELL A LIE. WE'RE SO ALIKE.
DON'T SAY IT ALL SWEETLY LIKE THAT. YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT EVEN MORE!
I wanted some reassurance


CLACK
FINE. I GUESS I CAN...
...TELL YOU BEFORE SENDING YOU OFF TO THE UNDER-WORLD.

WHAT THE HECK YOU'RE A REAL PAIN-IN-THE-ASS DOG.
YOU'RE THE PAIN-IN-THE-ASS!

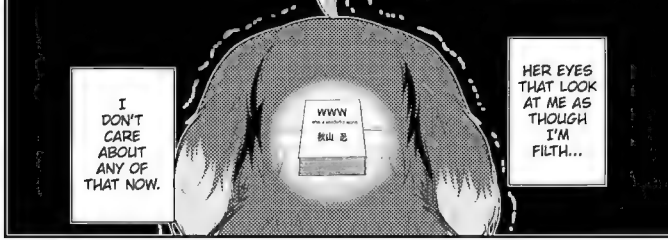
WOMAN
MY NAME IS KIRIHIME NATSUNO.
I'M A GIRL. THAT'S MY OCCUPATION.
FWUMP
DON'T TRY TO SOUND LIKE YOU'RE SOME CHIC GIRL SPY!
HARUMI FAMILY MOTTO
BE A MAN WHO WILL QUIETLY INDULGE A WOMAN IN HER LIES
....
I'M SURE.
AND MY MEASURE-MENTS STARTING FROM THE TOP ARE 92 CM, 58 CM, AND 85 CM.
SHE'S FRANK!
UH-HUH.
CLATTER
YEAH, BUT IF I DO, YOU'LL CUT ME!
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN JUST SAY IT!

LISTEN. I'M TIRED OF THIS BANTER.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST DIE ALREADY?
YOU SAY EVERYTHING THAT COMES TO MIND!
You tome a kind of kid?!
STUPID DOG! ♪
I'D LIKE TO HAVE A PEEK AT YOUR STOMACH. ♫
I COULDN'T SURVIVE A PEEK!
THE ABDOMINAL PRESSURE WOULD FORCE EVERYTHING OUT!
SWF
OH, COME ON.
JUST A LITTLE SNIP.
IF YOU CUT ME, I'LL DIE!
Cool it with the crazy eyes!
I'M JUST GOING TO KILL YOU A LITTLE.
WHO EVER SAID THAT WAS A GOOD THING TO SAY?!
SNIP
IT'S NO USE.

AM I GOING TO DIE AGAIN?
THAT VAGUE WORLD OF RAINBOW COLORS.
AM I GOING TO BE SENT THERE AGAIN?
DEATH.
THOSE UNFORGET-TABLE MEMORIES.

HOW...
...DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
...?!
DON'T TELL ME...
...YOU WERE THERE IN CAFE SEIYOU?
IT SEEMS...
...WE NEED TO DO SOME TALKING.

WHOOSH
READ THIS WHILE YOU WAIT.
W... WHAT THE-?!
I'M... SAFE?
BUT FIRST...
...I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER. I'M A LITTLE SWEATY.
WWW
...?!
YOU'RE LUCKY.
I CAME UP WITH A REASON TO LET YOU LIVE.
NOW EAT IT UP LIKE THE DOG YOU ARE.
THAT SCISSORS LADY'S UNDERWHING WAY OF SPEAKING...


I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT NOW.
WWW
what a wonderful world
秋山 忍
HER EYES THAT LOOK AT ME AS THOUGH I'M FILTH...

WWW
what a wonderful world
秋山 忍
秋山 忍
THERE'S A BOOK RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.

AND IT'S BY SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S, NO LESS!
A BOOK! A BOOK!!

IF I REALLY CAME BACK TO LIFE...
THE SMELL OF INK AND PAPER!
SNIFF
AAAH...

AROOOOOOO!
...THEN THAT...
...MUST HAVE ONLY HAPPENED THIS VERY MOMENT.
SWF
HUFF!
HUFF!

YANK
YOINK!
HUH?! WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!
I'LL KILL YOU!
OH, MY.
YOU'RE SUDDENLY IN A BAD MOOD.
WHO'S GOING TO KILL WHOM?

HOW HUMILIATING.
MY WHOLE BODY'S ALREADY TAKEN TO DOG-LIKE MANNERISMS.
IGGY
GOOD.
YES... I WAS BAD, MASTER.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ABOUT MY ATTIRE?
YOU HORNDOG.
NOW, YOU BAD DOG.
SHE INTERRUPTED MY READING. I WANTED TO READ IT OVER FOR THE FIFTH TIME, BUT I'VE ONLY READ IT FOUR TIMES SO FAR. THERE'S SO MUCH READING BETWEEN THE LINES IN WWW
WHAT DO YOU WANT, YOU BAD PERSON?

CREAK
YOU NAUGHTY BOY.
I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU HAD ANY LEWD THOUGHTS.
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?
NO THOUGHTS HERE.
?

...NOT REALLY.

HAAAH.
I ONLY GET OFF THROUGH EROTIC NOVELS.
TRY AGAIN, ONLY AS THE WRITTEN WORD, THIS TIME.
THAT DOES IT.
I'M REALLY GOING TO CUT THEM OFF.

WAIT...
OH.
?!
GRAB
YOUR BIG BALLS, THAT IS!

I'M SORRY. SIZE-WISE...
...THEY'RE MORE LIKE BABY BALLS.
I'LL SUE!
OH, COME ON.
THEY'RE CUTE AND SOFT.
REAL LEATHER MINI SOFA
COLOR: RED
ITEM NUMBER 419
DON'T DESCRIBE THEM LIKE THAT!
APOLOGIZE!
....
OH.
IS SHE... REPENTING?
ACHOO!
RIP
SNIFF
YOUR REACTION'S SO FRIGID...
...IT GAVE ME A COLD.
IT'S OBVIOUSLY BECAUSE YOU'RE SO UNDER-DRESSED! IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT!
AFTER A SHORT BREAK...
NOW, THEN.
...OUR CONVER-SATION RESUMES.

TIME FOR A SERIOUS TALK.
TOOK LONG ENOUGH!

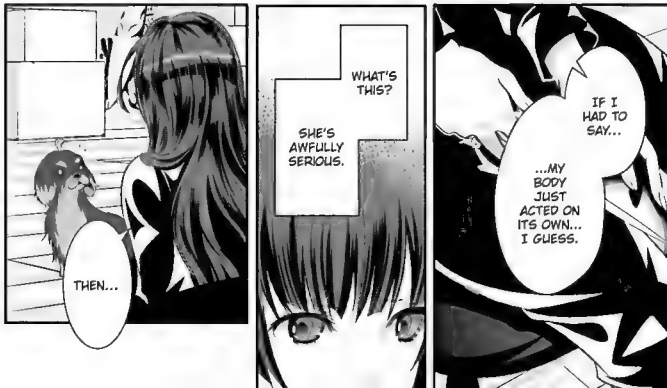
THE SCENE YOU WITNESSED AT THE CAFE.
SHOW IT TO ME.
AUGUST 10TH
THEN...
...TELL ME EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED UP TO THIS POINT.
...SHOW IT TO YOU?
YOU CAN SEE IMAGES OF WHAT'S IN MY HEAD TOO?
LOOKS LIKE IT.
THOUGH THEY'RE ONLY THE MOST IMPRESSIONABLE IMAGES.

IMPRESSIONABLE... I SEE.
THAT'D BE PRETTY IMPRESSIONABLE.
AFTER ALL, THEY'RE THE MEMORIES OF MY DEATH.
NOW TO RECONSTRUCT...
...THE IMAGES.

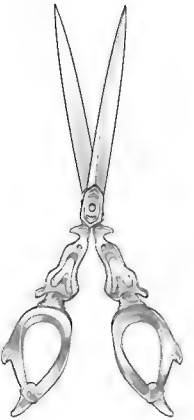
CAFE SEIYOU
....
I'M THERE.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
SO. AFTER THE COMMOTION, YOU GOT SHOT WITH HIS GUN.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
HMM?
WHY WOULD A SPINELESS ALIEN LIKE YOU...
...EVER CONSIDER CONFRONTING AN ARMED ROBBER?
BACK THEN...
WHY DID I DO IT?
EASY FOR HER TO ASK.
SPINELESS ALIEN...
UH.
WELL...

IT'S NOT LIKE I THOUGHT TO MYSELF...
...“I HAVE TO SAVE HER!” OR “I DON'T CARE IF I DIE!”
WHY DID YOU SAVE ME?
カチャ...
CLACK
HMMM. WHY, INDEED?


THEN...
WHAT'S THIS?
SHE'S AWFULLY SERIOUS.
IF I HAD TO SAY...
...MY BODY JUST ACTED ON ITS OWN... I GUESS.

MAYBE I'LL UNDERSTAND IF I ASK YOUR BODY?
IF I HANG YOU UPSIDE DOWN AND HIT YOU IN THE HEAD, MAYBE THE ANSWER WILL COME OUT.
IT WON'T!
IT'LL ONLY WIPE OUT MY MEMORY INSTEAD!
...TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED IN A WAY THAT SHE'LL BELIEVE ME...
...WHEN EVEN I DON'T FULLY BELIEVE IT AND IT HAPPENED TO ME?
NOW.
DO I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES...
BOPPING ME IN THE HEAD WHILE YOU HANG ME UPSIDE DOWN IS GOING TOO FAR!
HUMANS ALSO HAVE WEAPONS CALLED KNEES
STOP IT! I'M AGAINST DOG LIFTING!
WAIT UNTIL NEXT TIME!
I THINK!
IF I DON'T EXPLAIN, SHE'LL KILL ME FOR SURE THIS TIME!
CHAPTER 13 END



A LOT'S HAPPENED TO ME.
LUST
CHAPTER 2

I'M STILL ON THE FENCE AS TO WHETHER I BELIEVE MY OWN EXPERIENCES.
AND NOW I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE FEAR OF A QUICK EXECUTION IF I DON'T EXPLAIN IT CONVINCINGLY ENOUGH...

DO YOU BELIEVE ...
...WHAT I'M TELLING YOU?
...WHICH IS WHERE I AM NOW.
THAT ALL SOUNDS SO..
...COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS.

CHAPTER 2 ✂ PREACHING TO DOG EARS

....
ALL RIGHT!
WELL, THEN.
CLAP
COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS?
MY LIFE'S DEPENDING ON IT, THOUGH.
I'LL BELIEVE YOU.
...HEY.
WHAT ARE YOU SCARED ABOUT?
YOU'RE A COWARD, YOU YELLOW-BELLIED DOG.
A MAN OUGHT TO PULL HIMSELF... HAVE A BETTER GRIP ON HIMSELF.
WHEN YOU'RE QUIET...
...MY BODY STARTS SHIVERING ON ITS OWN.
WHY DID YOU CHANGE WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY?!
AND WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT MY CROTCH?!

GOOD LUCK!
THUMB'S UP
DON'T SAY THAT SO NICELY!
THIS IS THE WORST TIMING!
Don't look at me like that!
I MEAN...
YOU KNOW?
WHAT... WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?!
HOW ABOUT I MAKE A MINI SAUSAGE SAUTÉ FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER?
should have come in the fridge
THAT'S A SPITEFUL CHOICE TO GIVE!
IT'S MIGHT BE A HOTDOG!
YOU'RE TAKING THIS AWFULLY WELL...
...FOR HAVING BEEN TURNED INTO A DOG.

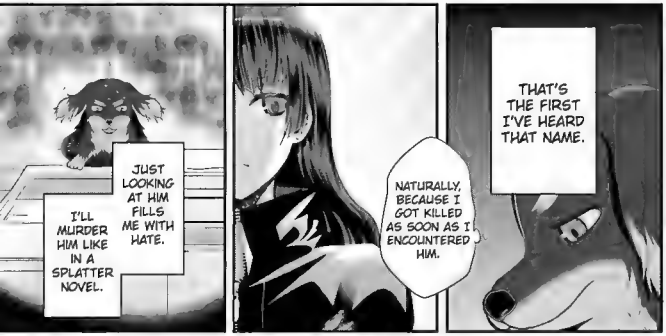
NEAR (SECOND) DEATH EXPERIENCE BY SHEER SHOCK
ブラクラすぎる三度目の転生
WELL, IT IS A BIG DEAL, BUT...
...I'VE ALREADY DONE ALL MY PANICKING ABOUT IT. IT'S NO USE FUSSING OVER NOW.
Dog heads can't be bad cause you get used to it.
I SEE.
YOU'RE QUICK ON THE UPTAKE. THAT'S YOUR ONE GOOD POINT, MONGREL.
I DON'T WANT TO GET USED TO IT THOUGH!
WELL, IN THE MEANWHILE...
...I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT INCIDENT.
FWAP
BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T AROUND...
...TO HEAR WHAT WENT DOWN.

LIKE THE FACT THAT THE MATTER'S NOT COMPLETELY SETTLED YET.
SEE?
TRAGEDY STRIKES DOWNTOWN

IT'S NOT SETTLED YET?
WHAT EXACTLY DOES SHE MEAN?
WHAT I SAID.
THAT ROBBER GOT AWAY AFTER HE SHOT YOU.

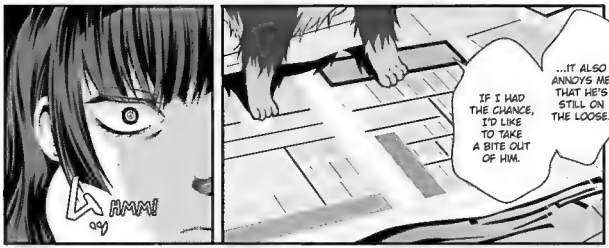
WHOA, WHOA!
WHAT ARE THE POLICE DOING ABOUT IT?
EVEN NOW, HE'S STILL AT LARGE.
...IS WHAT I MEAN.
NAKAHARA

THE ROBBER'S NAME IS TOUJI NAKAHARA.
AFTER HE ATTACKED CAFE SEIYOU...
...HE FLED THE SCENE AND IS STILL AT LARGE AND ARMED.


THAT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD THAT NAME.
NATURALLY, BECAUSE I GOT KILLED AS SOON AS I ENCOUNTERED HIM.
JUST LOOKING AT HIM FILLS ME WITH HATE.
I'LL MURDER HIM LIKE IN A SPLATTER NOVEL.

Our fight has just begun!
YEAH, BUT I COULD CATCH HIM OFF-GUARD...
...AND BITE HIM.
WITH THAT PUNY BODY?
IF DOGS PUT THEIR MINDS TO IT, THEY CAN EVEN BRING DOWN A MAN-EATING BEAR!!
THOUGH I'D LIKE TO AVOID SEEING HIM AGAIN IF I CAN HELP IT.
HE WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU EVEN IF YOUR PATHS DID CROSS.
YOU'RE A DOG NOW.

SO IT'S REVENGE...
...YOU WANT?
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM ALL OF A SUDDEN?
SURE I HATE HIM, BUT...


...IT ALSO ANNOYS ME THAT HE'S STILL ON THE LOOSE.
IF I HAD THE CHANCE, I'D LIKE TO TAKE A BITE OUT OF HIM.
HMM!

YOU'RE A MAN! IF YOU DON'T AT LEAST HAVE THE BACKBONE TO KILL THEN WHAT DO YOU HAVE LEFT?!
JAB
YOU COULD RIP HIS WINDPIPE OUT IF YOU WANTED!
WHY ARE YOU ASSUMING I'D KILL HIM?!

HE'LL NEVER ATONE FOR HIS SINS UNLESS YOU DO AT LEAST THAT MUCH!
YOU HAVE A CRAZY STANDARD FOR JUSTICE!
STILL...

THEY'LL CATCH HIM SOON ENOUGH.
Aah, typeface.
JAPAN'S POLICE FORCE IS THE BEST.
I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE NAKAHARA AGAIN.

THEY QUESTIONED ME TO DEATH ABOUT IT.
I SEE.
I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM THE POLICE.
BECAUSE I WAS AN INVOLVED PARTY.

BUT THEY DON'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT A GUN IN HERE.
KAZUHITO HARUMI
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

WELL, YOU WERE THERE AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.

IT MAKES SENSE.

....

THAT'S RIGHT.

SO, ARE YOU...

...GOING TO NEED ANYTHING?

HUH?
WHAT'S THIS SUDDENLY?
YOU'RE A VERY SPECIAL CASE.
YOU CAN'T JUST GO WALKING ABOUT OUTSIDE.
YOU'RE TELEPATHIC WITH PEOPLE.
Spooky dog!
A WORLD WONDER! THE TELEPATHIC DOG!
BEST CASE SCENARIO, YOU'RE A SPECTACLE. WORST, YOU GET DISSECTED.
YOU'LL "WALK A LILY." IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'LL ENDURING A LONG LIFE OF MODESTY.
STOP SOUNDING LIKE SUCH A KNOW-IT-ALL!
DONATIONS WELCOME HERE
BUT YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.
That status difference as a dog I a bit much...
IN THAT CASE.
STAY HERE AWHILE.

WHAT? DON'T LOOK SO FLABBER-GASTED.
...BUT...
HUH?!
WHEN YOU'RE TOO NICE, I GET SUSPI-CIOUS.
I'LL BE SAFER IF I JUST TAKE ANY KINDNESS FROM HER TO BE A TRAP.
UUH.
WHERE DID I PUT THOSE SCISSORS?
UUH.
I WONDER IF DOG MEAT TASTES GOOD?
I KNEW IT! SHE'S ONLY BEING NICE SO SHE CAN FATTEN ME UP AND EAT ME!

BY THE WAY...
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT DOG-IN-A-POT?
IT'S WHEN YOU PUT A PUPPY IN A POT AND EVERYONE SAYS "AAAW, HOW CUTE!"
WAIT! YOU DON'T ACTUALLY MEAN ADDING HEAT THEN, DO YOU?!

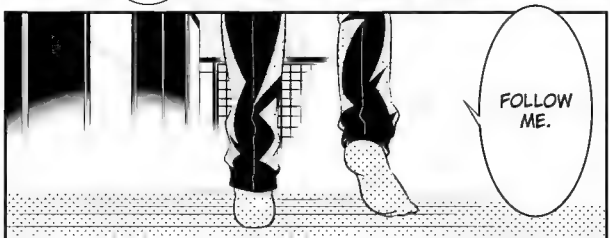
I am a plant. I am a plant.
I can hear you, remember?
SO.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
KAZUHITO HARUMI IS A BOOKWORM.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF ANYTHING YOU NEED?

THAT HASN'T CHANGED JUST BECAUSE I'M A DOG.
....
SOME... BOOKS.
BOOKS?
YES.
I'D LIKE SOME BOOKS.

CREAK
WELL, IF THAT'LL PLEASE YOU, THEN I'VE GOT JUST THE THING.
"BOOKS, BOOKS!"
THAT REMINDS ME. YOU WERE SHOUTING THAT QUITE A BIT.


FOLLOW ME.

IS THIS YOUR HOUSE?
YEP.
IT'S JUST AN APARTMENT THOUGH.
IT'S A LITTLE BIG FOR AN APARTMENT, DON'T YOU THINK?

ARE YOU ACTUALLY RICH?
YES.
I'M A HIGH-INCOME TAXPAYER.

I SEE.
THAT MAKES SENSE, SINCE THAT OTHER ROOM WAS ALSO SO BIG.
KLATCH
THAT WAS THE STORAGE ROOM.
?!
AND...

PARADISE.

OOOOH!

WHAT IS THIS? HEAVEN?

AM I DEAD? HONESTLY!

YOU ALREADY DIED.

CALM DOWN.

....

WELL, AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY.

THIS IS THE BEST! SUBLIME! WONDERFUL!

I CAN'T CALM DOWN!

...THIS IS MY LIVING ROOM AND WORK STUDIO.

WOW!

SUPER WOW!

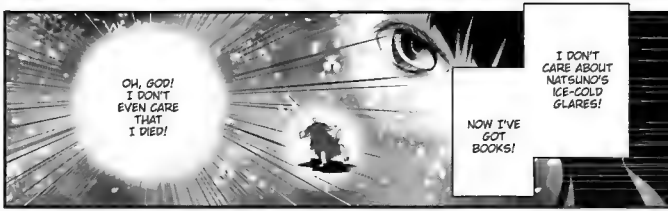
EVERY-WHERE I LOOK, IT'S BOOKS!!

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS.

...THIS IS MY LIVING ROOM AND WORK STUDIO.
BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS.
EVERY-WHERE I LOOK, IT'S BOOKS!!

PARADISE.
OOOOH!
WHAT IS THIS? HEAVEN?
AM I DEAD? HONESTLY!
HUH?
YOU ALREADY DIED.
CALM DOWN.
WOW!
SUPER WOW!
I CAN'T CALM DOWN!
THIS IS THE BEST! SUBLIME! WONDERFUL!
....
WELL, AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY.

YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH.
EVEN IF I AM A DOG!
THIS IS SERIOUSLY SO WONDERFUL. JUST WONDERFUL!


OH, GOD! I DON'T EVEN CARE THAT I DIED!
NOW I'VE GOT BOOKS!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT NATSUNO'S ICE-COLD GLARES!

TEN MINUTES LATER...
I FEEL... SICK.
ARE YOU STUPID? DID YOU FORGET THAT YOU'RE STILL WEAK?

I FORGOT.
WELL, READ ALL YOU LIKE.
NOT LIKE YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO DO.
YOU'RE A JOBLESS DOG.
SERIOUSLY?! YOU'RE A GOD!!

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU SHOULD WORSHIP ME AND MAKE SACRIFICES.
HA HA...!
I WAS TERRIBLY RUDE TO YOU, OH LORD!
I'M PAST EVEN ANSWERING BACK TO HER!

All those books to not neatly lined up in a row is marvelous
BUT IF YOU'RE A GOD...
...THEN THAT MUST MEAN YOU'VE READ ALL THE BOOKS HERE.
HUH? OH.
I ACTUALLY HAVEN'T READ...
...THE BOOKS IN THIS ROOM.

WORSE! YOU'RE A WORM!
MY, OH, MY. YOU HAVE QUITE A TONGUE.
YOU STONE DOG.
SWISH

MY FAITH IN YOU WAS SNUFFED OUT IN A SECOND!
YOU TRICKED ME!
YOU'RE NO GOD! YOU'RE THE DEVIL!

I HAVEN'T READ THAT MANY BOOKS IN GENERAL.
WHAT?!

THE MOMENT YOU JUST PULLED IT OUT OF ITS BAG...!
The criminal in that story would be great played by XXX
Huh? Criminal...?!
JAIL
GIVING AWAY SPOILERS!
TREATING BOOKS ROUGHLY!
Ah, I see.
ALL HE DID WAS READ THE BEST AND BLURB
FRAMMY & JOEY
THE THEME IS LOVE
TALKING ABOUT A BOOK EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IT!
THOUGHT-LESSLY SOILING A BOOK!
NEVER RETURNING A BORROWED BOOK!
INTER-RUPTING SOMEONE WHILE THEY'RE READING!
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY CARD
SCARY!
Stop with the scissors already!
BUT! BUT! IF YOU DON'T READ THEM, WHY DO YOU KEEP THEM HERE?
WHEN IT COMES TO BOOKS...
...I NEVER PULL BACK!
LISTEN UP. THESE ARE THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF BOOKS!

AND...
...COLLECTING BOOKS YOU BUY ONLY TO NEVER ACTUALLY READ THEM!
JAB
YOU THOUGHT THAT ALL UP?
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF TIME ON YOUR HANDS.
THAT IS THE ONE CRIME THAT CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED.
IN FACT, IT'S A CAPITAL CRIME!

WHEN YOU PURCHASE A BOOK...
PHYSICAL CONDITION, STATE OF MIND, ENVIRONMENT, ETC.
...A KIND OF BOND FORMS BETWEEN THE BUYER AND THE BOOK.
IT'S THE BUYER'S PREROGATIVE TO DECIDE WHEN SHE WILL READ IT.
THERE'S AN OPTIMAL TIME TO READ SOME THINGS.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO IGNORE THOSE THINGS AND JUST READ WHATEVER BOOK YOU BUY THAT DAY...
...THEN YOU'RE NOT READING, YOU'RE WORKING.
HRRM...

STROLLING INTO A BOOKSTORE...
...AND BUYING A BOOK YOU LIKE THAT YOU CAME ACROSS...
WHAT MATTERS ISN'T THAT YOU READ IT.
IT'S THAT YOU EVEN ENCOUNTERED THAT BOOK.

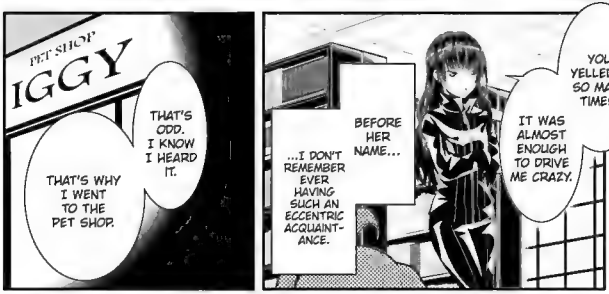
EVEN IF YOU DON'T READ IT...
...YOU STILL GET SOMETHING FROM IT.

THERE IS NO MEANING...
...IN A BOOK YOU HAVEN'T READ.

....
ああ言えばこう言う
人の話を聞かない人の心理
YOU AND I DON'T SEE EYE TO EYE.
IS THAT SO?
I LOVE WINNING PEOPLE OVER TO MY SIDE OF THINGS.
SHE'S SUCH A SADIST.
HEE HEE HEE.

SWIFF
ズ
BUT.
THAT WAS FUNNY WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE SEVEN DEADLY BOOK SINS.
I'LL MAKE YOU UNDER-STAND.
I SWEAR IT!
Honestly, I'd break ties with you!
But I won't because I can't stand to see good books go to waste! At least, you're not throwing them out!
Rotten bad dog
本の七罪
SEVEN DEADLY BOOKS SINS
IT'S MY PERSONAL CELL PHONE ENCYCLOPEDIA GLOSSARY "KIRIPEDIA."
I HAVE IT SO IT'LL RECORD ANYTHING THAT CATCHES MY FANCY.
THAT'S COOL.
HUH?
WHAT IS THAT THING?
I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT ONE.
WHAT FOR?
I CAN USE LITTLE PIECES OF INSPIRATION LIKE THIS FOR LATER.

KIRIHIME NATSUNO
夏野霧姫
THAT CAN'T BE.
UH, I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.
YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T MISHEAR ME?
I only just learned it today
BY THE WAY...
YOU CALLED ME BY MY NAME.
HUH? YOUR NAME?


PET SHOP
IGGY
THAT'S ODD. I KNOW I HEARD IT.
THAT'S WHY I WENT TO THE PET SHOP.
...I DON'T REMEMBER EVER HAVING SUCH AN ECCENTRIC ACQUAINT-ANCE.
BEFORE HER NAME...
IT WAS ALMOST ENOUGH TO DRIVE ME CRAZY.
YOU YELLED IT SO MANY TIMES.

BUT I REALLY DON'T KNOW YOU.
I'D NEVER HEARD THE NAME KIRIHIME NATSUNO BEFORE.
OH, NOT THAT ONE.
SO SHE REALLY CAME LOOKING FOR BLOOD!
...I WAS READY TO CHOKE YOU TO DEATH.
YOU WERE BEING SO ANNOYING ABOUT IT...

THE AKIYAMA ONE.
SHINOBU AKIYAMA.
YOU KEPT REPEATING THAT NAME, SO HOW CAN YOU NOT REMEMBER IT?

THE WAY YOU WERE MAKING ME HAVE TO HEAR THAT NONSTOP...
...I WAS ABOUT TO LOSE MY MIND.
A... AKIYAMA?
THAT'S RIGHT.

秋山 忍
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
FAR TOO CLEAR AN IDEA! IT'S THE AUTHOR I'M IN LOVE WITH.
THEN I DO HAVE AN IDEA OF WHO THAT IS.
AKIYAMA...
SHINOBU AKIYAMA?!

AUTHOR?!
TH-TH-THEN THAT MEANS YOU'RE...
...THE SHINOBU AKIYAMA?!
IS THERE ANOTHER SHINOBU AKIYAMA?
AUTHORS USUALLY TAKE A PEN-NAME, YOU DISDAINFUL DOG.
BUT... THE ONE I WAS CALLING FOR...
...WAS THE AUTHOR, SHINOBU AKIYAMA.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
SO YES, I SUPPOSE AM THE ONE-AND-ONLY SHINOBU AKIYAMA.
I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ANY OTHER AUTHORS NAMED SHINOBU AKIYAMA.

AFTER ALL, THE SHINOBU AKIYAMA IS STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME! I THINK I MIGHT LOSE MY MIND!
THE FAN IN ME CAN'T HELP BUT SAY HOW HE FEELS!
KAZUMI IS EXPERIENCING A SERIOUS BREAKDOWN
THAT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE, YOU RUDE PUP.
RELEASE THE FINAL VOLUME OF THE DEADLY SINS SERIES ALREADY!!

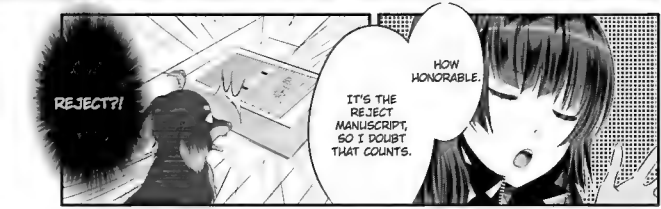
FWAP
HERE.
I AM BUT A SUBHUMAN, LOWLY CUR.
PLEASE PERFORM THIS MIRACLE...
I'M SORRY, SENSEI. I REALLY AM.
PLEASE RELEASE IT SO THAT I MAY READ IT.
YOU WANT TO READ IT, RIGHT?
SO READ IT.
LUST
WAIT.
UWAAH!
THAT WAS TOO EASY!
I WILL READ IT! BUT...
I PRIDE MYSELF IN THAT FACT THAT I WAS BORN TO READ!
LURK
NO, NO, NO!
BUT!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO READ IT?
THIS IS A PIECE OF SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S SOUL.
HOW I'VE WANTED TO... STILL WANT TO READ IT!

THAT MIGHT NOT BE RIGHT NOW!
I LOVE BOOKS.
I WANT TO READ EVERY BOOK THERE IS.
EVEN IF I AM A DOG, THE REASON I CAME BACK TO LIFE...
LUST
...WAS BECAUSE OF MY YEARNING TO READ THIS BOOK, AND THAT'S NO EXAGGERATION.
AND THIS MANUSCRIPT IS THE PINNACLE OF THAT.
THE FIRST AND PROBABLY LAST MOST UNPRECEDENTED.

BUT I HAVE A STRANGE SENSE OF PRIDE.
IT'S MY LAST LINE OF DEFENSE AS A READER.
IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO READ IT BEFORE IT'S BECOME A BOOK.
PROBABLY.

NO! IT ISN'T.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT...
WHAT? IS THAT ANOTHER ...
...OF THE SEVEN DEADLY BOOK SINS?

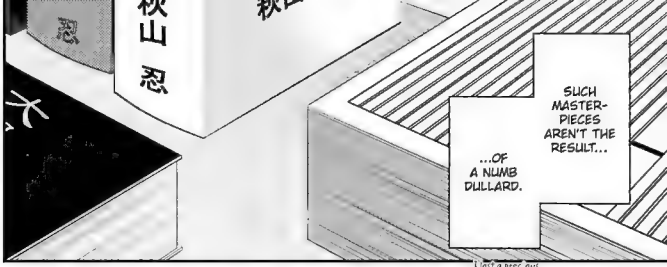
...IT DOESN'T FEEL FAIR.


REJECT?!
IT'S THE REJECT MANUSCRIPT, SO I DOUBT THAT COUNTS.
HOW HONORABLE.

CHAPTER 2 END
AND THAT IS HOW...
...OUR STRANGE COHABITATION BEGAN.
SHUT UP! LEAVE ME ALONE!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE NOT POPULAR!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.
YOU TOYED WITH MY INNOCENT FEELINGS!

DOG&SCISSORS

CHAPTER 3
REJECT MANUSCRIPT FOR "LUST" (UNRELEASED)
STILL, IT'S SO THICK.
HOW MANY PAGES IS IT?
Impossible thing for rejected
I WROTE WHAT I WROTE.
BUT TO BE HONEST...
...I DIDN'T GET THE CHILLS.
It's the chills plus a zap
The chills?
I GUESS SHE'S TALKING ABOUT A FLASH OF INSPIRATION.
I GUESS YOU'D NEED A FLASH LIKE THAT.
THERE COMES A CERTAIN MOMENT...
...WHEN EVERY HAIR ON MY BODY RISES.
AND I FEEL MY WHOLE BODY GET THE CHILLS.


秋山 忍
SUCH MASTER-PIECES AREN'T THE RESULT...
...OF A NUMB DULLARD.

YOU CAN READ THE BOOKS IN THIS ROOM TO YOUR HEART'S DESIRE.

I'm the one who lost his physical body
I got a free ride late last time thanks to a certain dog
WELL, EITHER WAY.
I'M GOING TO GET BACK TO WORK.

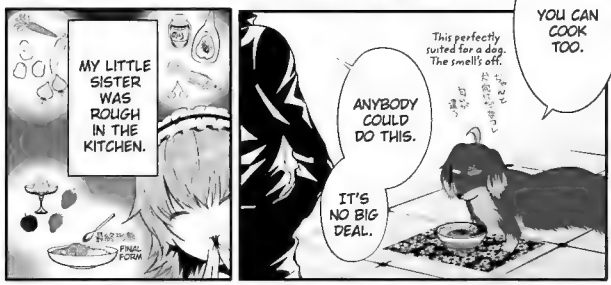
AND AS FOR THE DEADLY SINS SERIES...
...JUST YOU WAIT UNTIL IT'S DONE BEING WRITTEN!

I'LL BE WAITING UNTIL IT'S ALL DONE.
AND THOSE WERE HIS FINAL WORDS.

THAT WAS A WEIRD PLUG FOR IT!
I NEVER DREAMED THAT THIS WOULD BE MY FINAL FAREWELL TO YOU.
THEN YOU'D BE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY DEATH!
CHAPTER 3 ✕ A DOGGONE JOKE (1)

KAZUHITO HARUMI MAY BE A BOOKWORM...
...BUT KIRIHIME NATSUNO IS A WRITING FIEND.
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
NATSUNO'S LIFE...
...RELIES ON HER WRITING.
SO SHE WRITES.
SHE SPENDS HER DAYS WRITING.
WOW.
I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE TIP OF HER PEN.

MEANWHILE WITH ME...
...I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO BUT READ.
OOH! ARE THESE WHAT SHE USED FOR REFERENCE?!
I THREW MYSELF INTO THE SEA OF BOOKS WITHOUT HESITATION.
I forgot she was getting into this genre.
DIPLOMACY PROBLEMS
ONE-THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS
OIL MONEY
GAY MADRASA
CEO
CEO GENERAL MANAGER
MUMMY CULTURE
RELIGIOUS CONFLICT
PRINCE X SPECIAL PROTECTION
MIDDLE-AGED BOTTOMS
...GIRL AND DOG SPENT THE DAY.
WHILE LISTENING TO THE SOUNDS OF ONE ANOTHER ...
SKRITCH
THIS LIFE'S PRETTY GOOD.


YOU CAN COOK TOO.
This perfectly suited for a dog. The smell's off.
ANYBODY COULD DO THIS.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
MY LITTLE SISTER WAS ROUGH IN THE KITCHEN.
FINAL FORM

IT'S NOT ONLY COOKING.
NATSUNO IS PERFECT AT EVERYTHING SHE DOES.
THE WAY I ALWAYS IMAGINED AUTHORS WAS...

BUT...
AND IN THE MEANEST WAY, THEY ONLY KNEW HOW TO WRITE.
...IN THE NICEST WAY, THEY SPECIALIZED IN WRITING.

HOW CAN A PERSON WRITE A BOOK OTHERS CAN ENJOY...
...IF SHE'S NOT KEEPING UP HER DAILY LIFESTYLE?
HER ARGUMENT IRKS ME.
TMP TMP TMP
SO IT'S AMUSING TO SEE HER PUT ON AN APRON AND DO CHORES.
WHEN SHE PUTS OUT A BOOK, IT BECOMES A HIT. SHE'S A TOP-SELLING AUTHOR.
BUT THIS IS SHINOBU AKIYAMA WE'RE DEALING WITH.
IT'S NEVER A DULL DAY AT THE WORK-PLACE.
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT WORK-ING.
STAB
SLIT
WHEN I LAUGH AND SAY THAT...
...SCISSORS COME FLYING AT ME.
What a joke.

武術
スポーツ
料理、掃除特家事全般
MARTIAL ARTS, SPORTS COOKING, CLEANING, AND ALL OTHER DOMESTIC CHORES
AND WHAT'S MORE...
...APPARENTLY NATSUNO HAS MASTERED...
HOW TO BE A GOOD EMPEROR, MULTIPLE HIDDEN ARTS
...EVERY SKILL WRITTEN ABOUT IN THE BOOKS IN HER ROOM.
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, LANGUAGES, EXPLOSIVES
etc...
TRICKERY, COLD READING CONVERSATION
コールドリーディング
会話術

Don't throw around the word "perfect" so easily.
I CAN DO THEM TO A CERTAIN DEGREE, BUT...
...NO MORE THAN THAT.
IT'S JUST A SUPERFICIAL POLISH.
ARE YOU A PERFECT SUPERHUMAN?!

TAP
TAP
...AND BETTER TO HAVE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING, THAN TO NOT...
...IN ORDER TO WRITE A COMPELLING STORY.
IT'S BETTER TO KNOW SOMETHING, THAN TO NOT...
IT'S FOR MY WRITING.
BUT HOW COME YOU CAN DO SO MUCH?

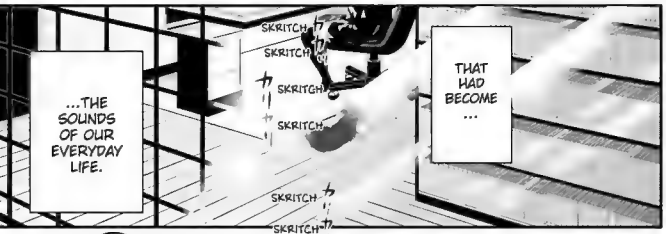
SO I DO THESE THINGS.
AND THEN I WRITE ABOUT THEM.
TO WRITE THE MOST INTERESTING BOOK POSSIBLE.
THERE'S JUST SO MANY INTERESTING THINGS IN THE WORLD.
FOR HAVING SO MANY GOOD QUALITIES...
...I DON'T SEE ANY SIGN OF A MAN IN HER LIFE.
It makes all those luxurious undergarments sad, in a way.
SHE'S GOOD-LOOKING.
LOADED.
AND CAN MANAGE A HOUSEHOLD PERFECTLY.
I KNEW IT.
IT'S BECAUSE HER PERSONALITY IS SO COMPLETELY FLAWED.

GOD DOESN'T GIVE TWO GIFTS, AS THEY SAY.
SMALL BOOB
PERSONALITY
INCOME
STYLE
FAME
VERSA-TILITY
BRAIN
BEAUTY
THAT'S SUCH A MINUS THAT IT CANCELS OUT ALL HER GOOD POINTS.
BOING
BOING
HER THROWING SKILLS ARE ALSO TOP-NOTCH!
Don't you care that you're ruining your floor rug?
The poor thing.
IN EXCHANGE FOR HAVING IT ALL, SHE LOST HER SOUL.
SWISH
...?!
THERE WAS A SCORPION.
YOU WERE IN DANGER.
LIES!

THAT'S THE LOOK OF SOMEONE OUT TO GET ME!
HIS NAME'S KOGANEMARU.
HUH?! IS THERE REALLY ONE?!
I WOULDN'T BE IN DANGER FROM A SCORPION STING...
...SO MUCH AS FROM YOUR SCISSORS.
IF YOU WERE BACK IN THE TIMES OF THE FIFTH SHOGUN...
5th
EDICT FORBIDDING CRUELTY AGAINST LIVING THINGS
...YOU WOULD TOTALLY BE EXECUTED.
NAAH.
HA HA...
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
I DON'T WANT TO GET KILLED BY "ACCIDENT"!
And there better not actually be a scorpion!
THAT'S WHY SHE'S GOT NO BOYFRIEND.

JUST NOW...
...YOU THOUGHT SOMETHING RUDE, DIDN'T YOU?
HUH?
I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
HEY, HEY.
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT I CAN READ YOUR MIND, HAVE YOU?
HOW COULD I?!
GRIP
SNIP
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN LIE TO ME THEN...
...TOO BAD.
ONCE THIS JOB'S DONE, IT'S PUNISHMENT TIME.
SO BRACE YOURSELF.
WAIT!
ANYTHING... ANYTHING BUT THAT!

FOR MANY REASONS, I CAN'T PORTRAY IT HERE.
BUT IT'S THE WORST POSSIBLE THING YOU CAN IMAGINE.
I hope it's the "that" that you're thinking of!
I CAN'T WAIT.
I WONDER WHAT I'LL MAKE TODAY'S PUNISHMENT.
NOT GOOD!



HEY.

AUGUST 25TH

YOU WANNA TRY DYING FOR ME?
THIS IS WHAT I GET FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?!
WHAT'S WITH THIS SUDDEN TWISTED DEVELOP-MENT?!
THEN AGAIN, NATSUNO IS ALWAYS IN FULL THROTTLE.
SHE PROBABLY MEANS BUSINESS.
Uuuh.
SHE'S NOT TALKING IN HER SLEEP.
HER EYES ARE SERIOUS.

YOU SEEM BUSY, SO HOW ABOUT ANOTHER TIME?
IDEALLY, IN ANOTHER ONE HUNDRED YEARS.
YOU WANT TO SEE ME IN THE AFTERLIFE TOO?
I'M JUST SAYING I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS SO I'D LIKE TO PASS ON IT!
You sweetie!
I SEE.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
YOU GET WHERE I'M COMING FROM?
I KNEW WE COULD TALK THIS OUT.
MOVING ONTO ANOTHER SUBJECT...
...COULD YOU JUST DIE FOR ME A SMIDGE?
WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED!
IS THE WORLD ON LOOP?
←ENTER
↓ENTER
ENTER→
I FEEL LIKE I'M TRAPPED IN SOME CURSED FOREST.

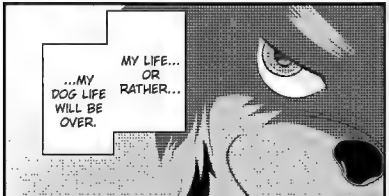
A pic randomly taken for comparison
YOU'RE EVEN SCARIER THAN THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
A WILD KIRIHIME NATSUNO HAS APPEARED!!
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY!

Okay?
JUST THE TIP.
JUST THE TIP IS ALL I NEED!

LOOK UP "A LITTLE" IN YOUR DICTIONARY FOR ME!
YOU ONLY HAVE TO DIE AN ITTY BITTY BIT.
COME ON, JUST A LITTLE?

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.

THE TIP WILL BE TOO MUCH!
AW, COME ON.
IT'LL BE OVER BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
We're starting to sound like two people who hooked up after a party


MY LIFE... OR RATHER...
...MY DOG LIFE WILL BE OVER.

I'M NOT PREPARED TO DIE AGAIN!!
...!
THAT DOESN'T GIVE HER POWER OVER MY LIFE.
I DON'T CARE IF SHE SAVED MY LIFE.
SHE'S USUALLY MORE PERSISTENT THAN THAT.
THAT WAS QUICK.
....
I'LL GET BREAKFAST READY, SO WAIT RIGHT THERE.
FINE.
すSWF
AT LEAST THINGS...
...ARE NEVER BORING.
...MAKES IT ALL TOO CLEAR HOW BIZARRE THIS LIFE IS.
THE WAY SHE SUDDENLY WENT FROM TRYING TO TAKE MY LIFE TO TALKING ABOUT BREAK-FAST...

NOW THEN.
I WONDER WHAT EVENTS ARE IN STORE FOR TODAY.
THE WAY SHE'S HUMMING FROM THE KITCHEN...
...MAKES US FEEL LIKE NEWLY-WEDS.
Oh, my life is like hell.
Go out there and earn it, honey!
I COULD VOMIT.
BUT AT LEAST SHE SEEMS TO BE IN A WICKED GOOD MOOD.
UH-OH.
IF SHE'S IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD, WHY'D SHE WANT TO KILL ME?
OR...
...IS IT KILLING ME THAT PUTS HER IN A GOOD MOOD?
EITHER OPTION'S FRIGHTENING!
STILL... I LIKE HER VOICE.
READING IN THE FRESH MORNING AIR LIKE THIS...
...ISN'T SO BAD EITHER.
HYAH HA!
DISINFECT ALL THE FILTH!

...WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
My new bride sounded like she came straight out of the 19th century.
MUST'VE BEEN IMAGINING THINGS.
FOOL!
THAT'S MY FRIED TOFU!
She's not cooking it herself.
THERE.
ALL DONE.
OR MORE LIKE I'M DONE FOR.
You don't have any fried tofu.
HEY.
WHAT WAS THAT TUNE?
TUNE?
YEAH, YOU WERE HUMMING IT.
I GUESS I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS DOING IT.
IT WAS UNCONSCIOUS?
SINGING MAKES THE FOOD TASTE BETTER.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
I OUGHT TO TAKE A LOOK AT HER HEAD SOME TIME.
I'LL PROBABLY DISCOVER SOME NEW VIRUS.
INFECTED PERSONS LOSE ALL COMMON SENSE AND EVENTUALLY DIE.

HERE.
BREAK-FAST IS SERVED.

OH, BE QUIET.
SO LONG AS IT COMES OUT DELICIOUS.
Cat Snacking!

SALAD!
YOU CALL THIS SALAD?!

...UH.
WHAT IS THIS?
And that thing in your left hand
IT'S SALAD.

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING MAY BE PLAUSIBLE, BUT...
what am I supposed to do with this?

I'd like to see it in all its natural glory.
THEY'RE VEGETABLES GROWN ON THE PLAINS AND BROUGHT STRAIGHT FROM THE FARM.
I SERVED THEM ALONE SO THAT YOU COULD BETTER ENJOY THEIR NATURAL SWEETNESS.

CLACK
I THOUGHT SO.
IT'D BE JUST TOO CRUEL OTHERWISE.
DON'T WORRY.
THERE'S MORE.
...I'VE READ ABOUT A MEAL JUST LIKE THIS IN A BOOK BEFORE.
BON APPÉTIT!
THIS IS A ROSE, RIGHT?
Yes! this is a rose!!
And that last thing I was a potted plant.
THIS IS JUST A SINGLE FLOWER IN A VASE!
THIS IS WAY TOO DIFFICULT FOR ME.
THIS IS ALSO SOMETHING I'VE READ IN A BOOK!
IT'S THE COLDEST DEW OF THE MORNING.
ARE YOU IGNORING MY OPINION?!
That's not the problem here!
AM I AN INSECT?!
YOU'RE GOING TO DRINK THE MORNING DEW OFF ITS PETALS.
NO.
What you were planning on eating the rose itself?

ARE YOU...
...SERIOUS?
I FEEL LIKE I'M STARTING TO LOSE MY MIND.
AND RIPENED ON THE PETALS.
CAREFULLY CHOOSE ONE DROP TO DRINK.
AND SAVOR THE LUXURY.

MM-HMM.
I THOUGHT I'D USE THEM IN MY NEXT BOOK.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THESE WEIRD THINGS?
DO THE LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE NOT APPLY TO THIS ONE ROOM?

That's also in it!
They also make sweets and come up with a whole new gourmet?

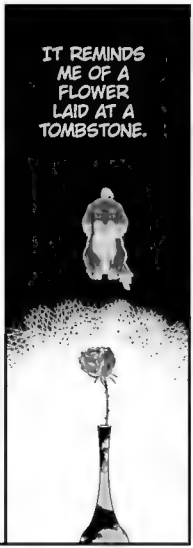
OH, DARN IT.

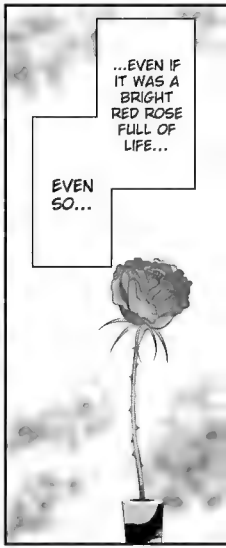
IT'S ABOUT A LADY COMPANY EMPLOYEE WHO'S GOOD AT COOKING...
...AND AN OLDER MAN WITH A HOT-COLD PERSONALITY WHO RUNS A HIGH-CLASS RESTAURANT
CAREFUL!
THAT ALREADY EXISTS! YOU COULD BE SUED!

I'M NOT TELLING YOU THAT I WOULD BITE THEM.
I JUST THOUGHT I'D GET BACK TO THE ROOTS...
...AND IMPLEMENT A MENU THAT APPEARS IN THOSE ORIGINAL WORKS.
AND I'M YOUR TEST SUBJECT.
FIGHT WITH YOUR SON
BUNA RESTAURANT
NEWSPAPER REPORTER
Job
YOU TOOK A WRONG TURN.
GO BACK.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THESE!
HEH.
THE PATH OF AN EPICUREAN IS A DEMANDING ONE.
IN THE END, I ATE AND DRANK.
Urp!
WHAT'S MOST DISTURBING IS HOW IT WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD.
BUT STILL...

SETTING A FLOWER VASE BEFORE ME...

I KNOW I'M AN UNDUTIFUL SON WHO'S ONLY GONE TO VISIT MY ANCESTORS' GRAVES A FEW TIMES...
...BUT I WONDER IF BENEATH THAT STONE...
HARUMI FAMILY GRAVE
...I'VE BEEN BURIED TOO.


IT REMINDS ME OF A FLOWER LAID AT A TOMBSTONE.


...EVEN IF IT WAS A BRIGHT RED ROSE FULL OF LIFE...
EVEN SO...

I'LL TAKE THIS ROSE.
...PROBABLY GOT AN OFFERING ...
...KAZUHITO HARUMI...
THEN ...

AFTER ALL, I'M DEAD.
I'M DEAD.
THADUMP
SHATTER
?!
HEY.
NA-TSUNO!
I SMELL BLOOD.
!
HEY.
WHAT'S UP?

DID SHE CUT HERSELF ON THE BROKEN PLATE?
THAT'S WEIRD, FOR HOW OFTEN SHE'S HANDLING SHARP OBJECTS.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU CUT YOURSELF.
UH...
WH...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?!

GRAB
WHERE'S THE FIRST-AID KIT?
I'LL GO GET IT—
IT'S...
...NOT THAT MUCH BLOOD.

GRAB
YOU'RE A LITTLE PALE TO BE TALKING THAT WAY.
COMPARED TO YOUR BLOOD...
...THIS IS NOTHING.
COME ON!
LET GO!

HUH? WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?
I'M NOT BLEEDING.
COMPARED TO YOUR INJURIES...
...THIS IS NOTHING.

IRK
WHAT IS SHE GOING ON ABOUT?
I'M NOT INJURED!
AND I'M NOT BLEEDING!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF RIGHT N...

DAMN IT!
DON'T LET GO OF ME SO SUDDENLY!
IT'S IN THAT DRAWER.
SPLAT
...OW!
WAIT RIGHT THERE.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK WITH IT!
I CAN REACH THAT HEIGHT.
HUH?
THE FIRST-AID KIT.
IT'S IN THERE.
....
I'M SORRY.
...?
WHAT'RE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?

MAYBE SHE DOESN'T MIND OTHER PEOPLE'S BLOOD.
BUT SHE'S THE TYPE WHO CAN'T HANDLE SEEING HER OWN?
OH, PLEASE.
YOU BLOOD-HOUND.
THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I LOVE BLOOD.
SHE'S SAYING WEIRD THINGS AGAIN!
IT'S A HEART-RACING MEMORIAL.
AND BEING STRANGELY SEDUCTIVE!
NOT THAT SHE WOULD BE SAYING THAT SHE LIKES IT OR HATES IT.
AT THE BASE OF THE LEGENDARY WOODS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU'RE VIOLENT AND YOU USE SHARP OBJECTS IN UNUSUAL WAYS.
I WAS CRAZY TO THINK YOU COULDN'T HANDLE BLOOD
...RIGHT?

RRRRUMBLE
....
NOW I WANT TO SEE MORE BLOOD.
ALL OF A SUDDEN.

P...
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR OWN THEN.
ESPECIALLY THE BLOOD OF A DEAD DOG...
...WHO RUSHES TO HIS MASTER ONLY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HER AT HER WEAKEST.

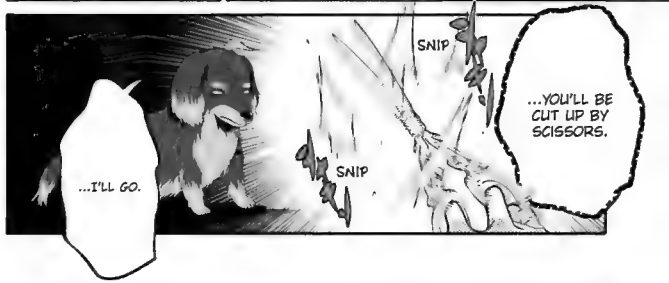
IT'S THE BEST!
AND FEELING LIKE THINGS COULD HAVE ONLY GONE THIS WAY...
...I FLEE.
AND PRAY THAT LUNCH ISN'T GRILLED DOG.
CHAPTER 38 END

CHAPTER 4 ×3
OKAY.
I'M LEAVING NOW.
FOR THOSE BEING HER FIRST WORDS FOR THE MORNING, THEY LACK KINDNESS.
AUGUST 28TH
AS USUAL...
...YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO JUMPS TO CONCLUSIONS.
AND LACK ANY EXPLANATION.
SHE REALLY MUST BE MISSING A SCREW OR TWO IN THAT HEAD OF HERS.
WHY DOES THIS PERSON START WITH THE LAST PART OF THE INTRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, TURN, AND CONCLUSION?
IS THIS REALLY THE SAME SHINOBU AKIYAMA?

CHAPTER 4: A DOGGONE JOKE (2)

...WELL?
I'M SORRY.
SHE CUT TWO OR THREE HUNDRED HAIRS OFF MY HEAD.
THAT'S EXACTLY ONE HUNDRED TIMES WHAT I DID TO HER.
SO.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
JUST TO THE GYM.
OKAY, THEN.
SEE YOU LATER.
YOU'RE NOT COMING?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'D MENTIONED THAT BEFORE.
NATSUNO'S PLACE
SPORTS GYM
IF I'M GOING TO MOVE MY BODY, IT'LL BE TO READ A BOOK.
OH, MY.

GO BY YOURSELF.
IF YOU DON'T MOVE...
And what're those sound-effects coming from that drawer?
WOOOOOO!!
ARE YOU MEDUSA?
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE TURNING TO STONE ANY TIME SOON!
BUT IF YOU DON'T MOVE, YOUR BODY WILL TURN TO STONE AND YOU'LL DIE.


...I'LL GO.
SNIP
SNIP
...YOU'LL BE CUT UP BY SCISSORS.

HUUH.

CAFE BURGLARY CASE INVESTIGATION HITS BUMP
喫茶店強盗事件捜査難航
WHAT WOMEN WANT
"ADULT GIRL'S SWEETS"
THIS HUGE FACILITY IS ALL FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THIS BUILDING?
DARN THE BOURGEOIS.
I WISH THEY'D BLOW UP!
CAFE BURGLARY CASE INVESTIGATION HITS BUMP
I GUESS IT'S STILL GOING ON.
NOT THAT...
...THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT AT THIS POINT.
THANKS FOR WAITING.
WELL, GOOD LUCK!
I'll be reading these pamphlets.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'VE GOT TO EXERCISE TOO.
WHAT A STEADY GOTH GIRL STYLE!
HUH?
I don't know the first thing about exercising
A DOG THAT DOESN'T EXERCISE IS JUST A DOG.

PAPER
PLASTIC
trash
YOUR SENSE OF ETHICS ARE TRASH.
SO I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT FROM YOU OF ALL PEOPLE
A DOG WHO DOESN'T RUN...
...IS NO BETTER THAN A PIECE OF TRASH.
Look, I found a placemore suitable for you
YEAH, BUT...
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH JUST BEING A DOG.

WHAAAA?
I'LL BE DOING MY USUAL ROUTINE OVER THERE.
DOGS and CATS
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST DO SOME TRAINING.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

WHRRRR
TEN MINUTES LATER...

CLUNK
CLUNK
WHRRR
STILL...
...I WAS NAIVE.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO DO SOME READING AFTER MY WORKOUT, BUT...
WHRRR
I AM WIPED OUT.
WHINE...

...SHE'S GOT A LOT OF ENERGY.
FWSSH
WAHHH!!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A DEMPSEY ROLL IN REAL LIFE!
BUT STILL...
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE MOVES...
...THERE'S NOT THE SLIGHTEST TREMOR IN HER CHEST
WHRRR

TOP SPEED
BEEP
PRESSS
HOLD IT!
BEEP BEEP
WAIT... IS THIS TORTURE?!
CRITICAL
ACTIVITY LIMIT
PUNISHMENT TIME. ♪
OKAY.
HOP
AND IF YOU FALL, I TAKE ONE OF YOUR LEGS.
WHRRRR
BEEEEEP
YOU MISUSE THE WORD "OKAY" WAY TOO MUCH!
BEEP BEEP
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
HEY!
THAT WAS A NICE FIGHT, NATSUNO!
YOU WORK UP A GOOD SWEAT?

BULGE
NICE POSE!!
HA HA HA!
AND YOU'RE AS COOL AS EVER, NATSUNO.
MUNAKATA.
YOU'RE AS HOT AND SWEATY AS EVER.
I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU...
...FOR BEING MY PARTNER.
HA HA HA! AW, COME ON.
SWEAT EQUALS POWER!
RIGHT.
BUT I MEAN IT. STAY BACK.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
DON'T COME NEAR ME, YOU'RE TOO SWEATY.
COME ON, SHE'S BEING SERIOUS!
LET'S BURN UP EVEN MORE!
AAAH.
FANCY THAT. SO COULD I.
I COULD GO CRAZY.
I'M CRAZY FOR YOU!
SO BIG.
HA HA HA! YOU AND THAT DOG...
...HAVE TO TRAIN MORE, LIKE ME!

HAHA
HE'S SUCH A MUSCLEHEAD, HE WOULDN'T GET IT ANYWAY.
It's fine.
TYPICAL NATSUNO.
YOU'VE GOT A WICKED TONGUE.
Just smile and nod, just to be safe.
DON'T TELL THAT TO HIS FACE.
PLEASE DON'T TELL HIM.
THAT WAS SO LAME.

BUT SOMEONE WHO WAS IN THE EXPERT CLASS OF THAT STYLE...
...WOULD LAUGH IT OFF.
AFTER ALL, MUNAKATA WAS ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH ME.
BUT THAT SPARRING BEFORE...
...HAD SOME AWESOME MOVES.
OH, YOU SAW THAT?

今この世に新たなる武の風が吹く
THE WINDS OF A NEW MARTIAL ART NOW BLOWS IN THIS LAND.
TO HAVE SOMEONE IMITATE A CHARACTER FROM ONE OF MY BOOKS...
...WOULD BE A BLESSING GREATER THAN I DESERVE.
IMITATE ...?
ACTUALLY, I DO TOO.
何故泉谷閃也で始めの？
You go by to start a Daigfang Bubai-clan?
SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT, YOU'RE A HARD WORKER.
I'M USING IT FOR MY BOOK TOO.
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF SOMEONE LEARNED MARTIAL ART'S FROM MY BOOK?

I USED TO MIMIC DRAGON QUEST TOO.
FOR US IT WAS TWIN SWORD PINNING.
ON MY WAY HOME FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
...I USED TO DO RUROUNI KENSHIN SWORD MOVES WITH MY UMBRELLA.
THAT BRINGS ME BACK.
IN MY CLASS, I PREFERRED TO DO KENSHIN'S TOBI IZUNA MOVE.
YOUR CLASS WAS WEIRD.
BUT...
...THERE'S NO HARM LEARNING A TECHNIQUE THAT CAN PROTECT YOU.
BUT THE BEST FOUNDATION WAS THE KAMEHAMEHA.
THE BEAM OF EVIL FROM DRAGON BALL.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN...
...CALAMITY MIGHT BEFALL YOU.
SHE'S RIGHT.

DON'T SAY THAT.
....
...WHEN THE TIME FOR YOU TO DIE COMES, YOU DIE.
YEAH, BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRAIN...
...IS UNSURPRISINGLY WEIRD.
YOUR CHOICE OF TECHNIQUES...
Don't lift your leg like that. It's not proper
...I'LL SAVE YOU WITH THE THUNDER CROSS SPLIT ATTACK FROM JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURES.
IF YOU EVER GET INTO A PINCH...
IT'S ONLY FOR SALE IN THIS HERE GYM.
WHERE DO THEY SELL THAT?
FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN IT.
It's so dark, is it a dark star?
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE DRINKING?
...MUST BE THAT GUY.
THEN THIS LABEL...
IT REALLY DOES IT FOR ME.
IT'S A CUSTOM DRINK.
SQUID INK?

SCARY ENOUGH, THAT'S JUST IT.
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD.
Don't look this way.
こっち見るな
THAT PERV'S WAY TOO SELF-ASSERTIVE.
ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS...
...HE'S PUT THAT LABEL ON HIS TOWEL, UNDERWEAR, AND WALLET.
HUH.
WAIT.
WALLET ?!
I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT.
WHERE DID MY WALLET END UP GOING ANYWAY?!
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR WALLET?
WELL.
I DROPPED IT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
The kind with velcro?
マジック?
YOU WANT A WALLET WITH A MUSCLE STICKER ON IT?
I DON'T NEED ONE! I COULDN'T USE THAT EVEN IF I WERE HUMAN!
RIP
RIP
WHEN?

THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT.
THERE WAS SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME IN IT.
CRACK
I WONDER IF SOMEBODY PICKED IT UP.
WAS IT...
...CASH?
YOUR HOUSE KEY?
THAT WAS IN IT.
THE KEY TO UNIT 101 IN MY BUILDING.
NO, IT WAS PRETTY BARE.
CREDIT CARDS, THEN?
I'VE NEVER OWNED ONE OF THOSE.
WAS THERE ANYTHING THAT HAD YOUR ADDRESS ON IT?
....

I THINK MY SCHOOL ID...
...HAD MY ADDRESS PRINTED ON IT.
....
THEN IT'S PROBABLY FINE.
SINCE THERE WAS NOTHING OF REAL VALUE...
Nothing of real value?!
...I DOUBT ANYBODY'D STEAL IT.
MAYBE SOMEBODY TURNED IT INTO THE POLICE.
WE CAN GO CHECK WITH THEM.
WE'LL ASK IF ANYBODY TURNED IN A WALLET...
...THAT STINKS OF DOG.
YOU ALWAYS SAY ONE WORD TOO MANY.
I hate myself for actually trusting you for a second there
BUT...
....
...I HOPE MY WALLET...
...SHOWS UP.

I... CAN'T TURN... MY HEAD.
AT LEAST I CAN MOVE MY EYES.
CURSE YOU, NATSUNO!
YES.
IT WAS THE VICTIM'S WALLET.
....
ADDRESS 101?
....
THANK YOU.
OW!!
IS THIS MUSCLE SORE-NESS?!
TWITCH
I'M IMPRESSED SHE CAN STILL WORK AFTER THAT WORKOUT.
....
THAT'S... THE CASE...
HAVING A MEETING WITH HER EDITOR?
WHAT'S SHE DOING ON THE PHONE THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
...GOT IT.
IT SHOULD BE... YES...

IS SHE SOME KIND OF CYBORG SOLDIER WHO NEVER FEELS TIRED?
AFFIRMATIVE! I AM...
A WRITING MACHINE.
WELL, SINCE SHE'S SO SCREWED UP...
...SHE PROBABLY JUST DOESN'T KNOW WHAT FATIGUE IS!
AHA HA HA.
WHAT A NICE HOBBY YOU HAVE LISTENING IN ON OTHER PEOPLE'S PHONE CALLS.
YOU EAVES-PUPPER.
SHE'S GONNA KILL ME!
KLASH!
I-I-IT'S OKAY! I DIDN'T HEAR A THING!
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING FROM YOUR MEETING WITH YOUR EDITOR!
!
I GUESS YOU REALLY...
...DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
I DIDN'T! I DIDN'T!
I SEE.
THEN THAT'S GOOD.

SEPTEMBER 1ST

BONED RIB
EAR NAILS
TAIL
KALBI
...SHE'D EAT ME.
TONGUE
BEEF
SPARERIB
STOMACH
SIRLOIN
RUMP
FILLET
SKIRT STEAK
I'M ALREADY A DOG, SO I PROBABLY WON'T BE TURNING INTO A COW ANY TIME SOON.
I'D PREFER A COW, MYSELF.

KEBABS.
That's too heavy!
FIRST THING IN THE MORNING! I MEAN...
HOW DO YOU EVEN MAKE KEBABS?
RUSSLE
YOU'RE GOING TO EAT...
...BREAK-FAST, RIGHT?
HMM? UH.
WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Can you blame me? They're so delicious.
IMPULSE BUY.
DON'T BUY SOME-THING LIKE THAT ON A WHIM!
WHERE DO YOU THINK WE ARE? TURKEY? AKIHABARA?
DA DA DA DAUUUUUM
SSSHHHH
WHY DO YOU HAVE ONE?!
IT'LL BE FINE.
I HAVE A MACHINE.
Behold.

You wrap it in a pita and eat it.
I COULDN'T HELP IT, I LIKE IT.
HERE.
THAT'S A LOT!
That clearly wasn't a business expense!

BY THE WAY...
...HOW MUCH DID THIS THING COST?
UUUH.
ABOUT 300,000 YEN, I THINK.

A dog's stomach probably can't handle it
UH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT SPICY FOODS...
THEN I'LL JUST GIVE YOU THE PITA BREAD.

CAFE BURGLAR STILL AT LARGE
I'VE NEVER EATEN ONLY THE PITA BEFORE.
AND I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.
...I'M SURE.

Give me the best you've got!
I'M FRESH OUT.
UUUH... HOW ABOUT SOME SNACKS?
I'M FINE WITH THAT.
NO PROBLEM.

IT MOVES ME TO TEARS, BUT...
...DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO EAT?
CHEW
CHEW

I ALSO HAVE NOOBOW.
DO YOU COME FROM THE PAST?!
SORRY.
I'VE ONLY GOT 5/8 CHIPS.
WHY WOULD YOU HAVE THAT, OF ALL THINGS?!
I'M SHOCKED THEY'RE EVEN STILL AROUND!
It'd at least be classified as a relic!
STILL...
ARE YOU IMPLYING I'M OLD?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
PUT THOSE SCISSORS AWAY!
LISTEN.
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TEN COMMAND-MENTS OF DOGS?
SURE I DO.
ARE THE EXPIRATION DATES ON THESE STILL GOOD?
IT'S OKAY IF THEY'RE A LITTLE EXPIRED.
YOU'RE JUST A DOG.

YOU'RE SO ANNOYING, YOU HALFWAY DOG.
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM. I JUST BOUGHT THE RECENTLY.
THEY STILL SELL THOSE?

A DOG'S MOOD IS DETER-MINED...
...BY HIS OWNER'S ATTITUDE.
SHE KNOWS THAT AND STILL TREATS ME THIS WAY.

It wouldn't even be any trouble to have them bring back a seafood sandwich called the Matatte Mac!
神だ…神がいる！
There is a God!

I HAD THEM MADE TO ORDER.
IT MUST BE AWESOME BEING RICH.

LATELY...
...MY BACK'S BEEN FEELING WEIRD.
IT SEEMS TO BE THE EARLY SIGNS OF A SLIPPED DISC.

SO.
HOW'S YOUR BACK?
YEAH.
I LOOKED INTO IT.
DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT IT FEELING OFF?

APPARENTLY IT CAN HAPPEN EASILY...
...WHEN THE FLOOR'S PARTICULARLY SLIPPERY.
MAKES SENSE.
LIKE THE FLOORING IN THE HALLWAY.
SHOULD I LAY SOMETHING DOWN OVER IT?
....
LET'S GO TO THAT PET SHOP AGAIN.
IGGY'S Summer Sale!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A BUMMER HAVING TO SEE THAT AFRO GUY.
....
W...WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU SUDDENLY WENT QUIET.
LISTEN
WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO NICE?
UH-OH! I STEPPED ON A LANDMINE!
SWF
GOODBYE, EARTH!
GOODBYE, HUMANITY!

WHY?
DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT?
IT'S SUCH NICE WEATHER.
I WAS THINKING WE COULD GO OUT.
....
HUH?! NO SCISSORS?
WHY ARE YOU DIVERTING YOUR EYES...
...JUST TO SAY SOMETHING SO INNOCENT?
WELL.
IT'S GOOD WEATHER AND IT'S NICE OUT.
AND THE WEATHER'S GOOD.
DOING NOTHING BUT WRITING
あとは書き放し
HOLDING PHONE MEETINGS UNDER THE COVER OF DARK
I'VE GATHERED THAT SHE USED TO BE A REGULAR AT CAFE SEIYOU.
SO HER ISOLATION THESE PAST FEW WEEKS IS OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
WORKING OUT AT THE GYM, DOING SETS
筋トレ
ジム
HAVING HER FOOD DELIVERED TO HER
食料は宅配サービス
AND NATSUNO'S NEVER ONCE LEFT THE APARTMENT.
EITHER WAY, WE'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER NOW FOR A FEW WEEKS.
I THINK SHE'S FINALLY LOST IT.
AND THAT'S SUCH AN UNEXPECTED THING FOR HER TO SAY.

I SEE. WELL, HAVE FUN.
YOU CAN BRING ME A BOOK AS A SOUVENIR.
It's a way good for a shut-in to improve her situation.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE COMING TOO.
HUH?!
WHAT KIND OF TURN OF EVENTS IS THIS?
...WAIT.
IS SHE INVITING ME...
...TO DIE?!
EEP!
D-DON'T KILL ME!
WHAT KIND OF ECCENTRIC REACTION IS THAT?
IT'S GOOD TO GET OUT ONCE IN A WHILE...
...AND BREATHE THE FRESH AIR, RIGHT?
THAT'S IRRELEVANT. READING'S JUST AS GOOD.
IF YOU DON'T BREATHE FRESH AIR...

BUT WHY'S NATSUNO BEING SO PUSHY TODAY?
...WELL, THE WEATHER IS PRETTY NICE OUT.
ARE WE SWIMMING IN THE PUTRID SEA OR SOMETHING?!
...YOUR BRAIN WILL ROT.
And then your whole body will follow suit.
KNOCK IT OFF!
I'M NOT A DOG!
Even though I am a dog!
COLLARS ARE GREAT.
I BOUGHT YOU A COLLAR, SO LET'S SEE HOW IT FITS.
GOOD.
OKAY.
I'LL COME WITH YOU.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO LIVE IN A JAPAN LIKE THAT!
That'd make any boyfriend go crazy!
女子高生に首輪がブーム！
COLLARS EXPERIENCE A BOOM AMONG HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS!
PUT A COLLAR ON YOUR WILD BOYFRIEND!
...COULD VERY WELL BE COLLARS.
THE NEXT TREND...

SURE, IT'S NATURAL FOR DOGS TO WEAR COLLARS.
BUT AS A FORMER HUMAN, I REFUSE!
SHOCK!
MEN SHOULD ALWAYS MAKE A RINGING SOUND!
DO YOU WANT TO TURN ALL MEN AGAINST YOU?!
SWISH
SWISH
HEH
YOU'VE GOT A LOVE OF NERVE, AFTER YOU'RE FINANCIALLY DEPENDENT ON ME.
AN OUTLAW WHO HAS LOVE ONLY FOR BOOKS.
I'M A LONE WOLF WHO SHOULDN'T BE CHAINED UP.
I'M SORRY.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
YOU QUICK-TEMPERED MAN.
YOU SERVILE MAN.
SHOULD I BARK FOR YOU?!
I'M A PET DOG!
THAT'S RIGHT, I AM DEPENDENT!
NOW YOU'VE SAID IT!

SWISH SWISH
YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL I'M THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO KNOWS YOUR THOUGHTS.
If you keep being difficult, I'll put a harness on you.
WHAT DO I DO?!
UUH... WELL... AARGH!

DON'T SAY THAT LIKE YOU'RE SO HAPPY!
GEH HEH HEH.
YOU'RE MESSING WITH ME IN YOUR MIND.

FINE. YOU'RE RIGHT.
NOT THAT IT NECESSARILY MAKES ME HAPPY.
...HOW EROTIC.

YOUR VERY EXISTENCE IS HARMFUL TO MINORS!
YOU R-18 DOG!
IF I DID, YOU'D MAKE A MESS OF ME IN REAL LIFE!

CLAK
SO.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

If I can help it, I'd like to keep to places within the range of common sense.
UH, I...
...WOULDN'T WANT TO GO ANYWHERE WEIRD ANYWAY.
OH.
NOWHERE SPECIAL.

CHAPTER 4 : END

"DOG & SCISSORS- WHAT IF?"
WHAT IF THE CHARACTERS WERE OPPOSITE GENDER? SHUNSUKE SARAI

KAZUTO HARUMI (HEREAFTER: HARU): "SINCE THIS IS SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY, DOING THE AFTERWORD FOR VOLUME 1 OF THE COMIC, I THOUGHT WE COULD TACKLE SOMETHING THAT CAN'T USUALLY BE DONE — GENDER-BENDING."

KIRIHIME NATSUNO (HEREAFTER: NATSU): "WHAT THE HECK? THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST INTERCHANGE. YOU SUDDENLY PROPOSING SOME KIND OF NEW PLAN?"

HARU: "THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING. AND IT'S YOUR FAULT WHY."

NATSU: "...HUH? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?"

HARU: "THINK ABOUT IT. THIS IS HOW YOU USUALLY CONDUCT YOURSELF:

1) ALWAYS WALKING AROUND WITH SCISSORS
2) ALWAYS DRESSED IN ALL BLACK
3) ALWAYS TORMENTING YOUR DOG WITH A WICKED GRIN

HARU: "SEE? THAT'S ONLY BARELY PERMITTED BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A YOUNG WOMAN. IF WE JUST CHANGED THAT ONE THING, YOU'D TOTALLY BE A SUSPICIOUS PERSON. I'M NOT KIDDING. THEY ARREST PEOPLE LIKE THAT IN TWO SECONDS.

NATSU: "..."

HARU: "ON THAT NOTE, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM BEING THE OPPOSITE GENDER. IN FACT, IT'D BE GOOD FOR ME. HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WHO ARE BOOK NERDS ARE GREAT! THEY COULD BE LATE TO SCHOOL, SO THEY GO RUNNING WITH THEIR BOOK IN HAND, AND THEN TURN THE CORNER ONLY TO CRASH INTO THE NEW TRANSFER STUDENT, AMONG OTHER FUN ADVENTURES. PLUS, MADOKA WOULD BE CUTE WHETHER SHE WAS MY LITTLE SISTER OR MY LITTLE BROTHER! I'D HAVE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT IT!"

NATSU: "..."

HARU: "IT'S TRUE FOR OTHER WRITERS. TAKE MAXI AKIZUKI, FOR INSTANCE. IF SHE SWITCHED SEXES, SHE'D BE AN INVIGORATING POMPOUS KIND OF GUY, BEING SERVED BY MEN IN BLACK AND ORDERING THEM AROUND WITH THE AIR OF A PRINCE. AND THEN WHEN HE WENT ON THE DEFENSIVE, HE'D SUDDENLY BE WEAK! WHEREAS WHEN HE WAS BEING ATTACKED, HE'D REACT BY GETTING REALLY WORKED UP! HEY, DON'T YOU THINK THIS COULD BE REALLY POPULAR?!"

NATSU: "..."

HARU: "THEN THERE'S MOMIJI HIMEHAGI. SHE'D BE A KIMONO-WEARING PRETTY BOY WHO WOULD LEAVE THE SECULAR WORLD BEHIND AND LIVE IN A PALACE ON A DESERTED ISLAND WHERE NOBODY WOULD KNOW HIM. BY HIS SIDE WOULD BE HIS EVER-PRESENT BUTLER... NOW THAT'S A PRETTY THOUGHT! HAM! WOULD BE A PUPPY OF A BOY. HE'D BE LIKE A WALLFLOWER, SORT OF FIDGETING AND SNEAKING PEEKS HERE AND THERE. AND I KNOW FOR SURE HIS DESIRE TO PROTECT AND HIS MATERNAL INSTINCTS WOULD BE KICKED INTO HIGH GEAR! I'M PREDICTING A LEGEND HERE!"

NATSU: "...SO, WHAT ABOUT ME?"

HARU: "I ALREADY TOLD YOU, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHANGE A THING. YOU'RE ALREADY A PROBLEM ENOUGH, BUT THEN THINK ABOUT "BIG PERVERT" SUZUNA HIIRAGI. IMAGINE IF SHE WERE A GUY. THEY'D ARREST HER IN NO TIME AND EXECUTE HIM BY FIRING SQUAD. IT SCARES ME JUST TO THINK ABOUT IT. THEY'D LOCK HIM UP IN THE DUNGEONS AND NEVER LET HIM SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY AGAIN. BEING SUCH A MASOCHIST, HE'D PROBABLY LOVE IT THOUGH!!"

NATSU: "YES, I'M SURE. YOU NAILED THAT ONE."

HARU: "YEP. BUT I REALLY THINK WE SHOULD DROP THIS SUBJECT. MORE IMPORTANTLY, ABOUT ME HITTING UP EVERY BOOKSTORE IN THE COUNTRY, IN ORDER FROM NORTH TO SOUTH—AAAAAAH! WHAT THE HECK?! WHY'D YOU CUT ME?!"

NATSU: "NO MATTER WHERE THE CONVERSATION GOES, YOU CAN'T JUST CHANGE THE SUBJECT ONCE WE'VE STARTED ON IT. IF WE DON'T FOLLOW THROUGH WITH IT TO THE VERY END, WE'LL LOSE OUR READERS' FAITH."

HARU: "BUT THIS IS THE AFTERWORD FOR THE COMIC! I WAS TOLD WE COULD DO PRETTY MUCH WHATEVER WE WANTED. I DIDN'T REALIZE WE WERE SUPPOSED TO THINK THIS THING OVER SO SERIOUSLY!"

NATSU: "YOU MUST TREASURE EVERY INTERACTION WITH THE READERS BECAUSE IT MAY NEVER
HAPPEN AGAIN. YOU CAN'T SLACK OFF FOR EVEN A MOMENT."

HARU: "B-BUT SAY WHAT YOU LIKE, IT CAN'T BE DONE. YOU AND I ARE HOW WE ALWAYS ARE. AND THERE'S NO MORE SPACE LEFT ANYWAY. WHO'S SEX CHANGE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO THEORIZE NOW?"

NATSU: "HANAKO SCIS," IT'S YOUR TURN."

HARU: "YOUUUUU!!"

NATSU: "OH, HANAKO SCIS. NO NEED TO BE EMBARRASSED, JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM USUAL."

HARU: "WHAT'S DIFFERENT?! WHAT'S THE GENDER OF SCISSORS ANYWAY?!"

NATSU: "WELL, THE THE CUTTING EDGES ARE SWITCHED SIDES AND THE POINT IS PRETTY SHARP. AND WHO COULD MISTAKE HER FOR ANYTHING BUT A GIRL WITH THAT FANCY RIBBON I TIED TO THE HANDLE. YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND A YOUNG GIRL'S HEART, YOU UNROMANTIC DOG."

HARU: "OH, WOW SHE'S CUTE. SO WITH THIS GENDER CHANGE, THAT MEANS THE HARM TO ME WILL BE A LITTLE LIGHTER, EH? THE SLASH ATTACKS A LITTLE MILDER? THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PART FOR ME!"

NATSU: "GOOD POINT. WITH THE ADDED RIBBON, SHE CAN TIE UP ANY DOGS THAT TRY TO ESCAPE HER. LIKE THIS."

HARU: "W-WHAT IS THIS?! THE RIBBON'S WRAPPING AROUND ME!"

NATSU: "NOW TO SLASH AND TRASH THE BAD DOG WHO SPEAKS SO RUDELY TO HIS MASTER. WHO WAS IT WHO SAID 'EVEN IF YOU WERE A GUY, IT WOULDN'T CHANGE HOW FLAT YOU ARE'?!"

GUEST COMMENTS WRITER: SHUNSUKE SARAI

SARA

CONGRATULATIONS ON VOLUME 1 OF THE *DOG & SCISSORS* COMIC BEING RELEASED! HELLO, THIS IS THE "SARA" PART OF THE SHUNSUKE SARAI COMBO CREATOR TEAM! YAHOO, IT'S BEEN MADE A MANGA! IT'S BEEN MADE A MANGA! MY CHILDHOOD DREAM OF HAVING SOMETHING BE MADE INTO A MANGA HAS FINALLY COME TRUE. I DID IT! I ENJOY EVERY CHAPTER OF THE *DOG & SCISSORS* WORLD WITH MY TAIL WAGGING NONSTOP. OHBA-SENSEI, THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF HARUMI, NATSUNO AND THE REST OF THE GANG HEREAFTER TOO!

I

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RELEASE OF VOLUME 1 OF THE COMIC! THIS IS THE "I" PART OF SHUNSUKE SARAI! THERE WERE SO MANY PARTS IN THE NOVEL THAT WE JUST COULDN'T PORTRAY, BUT WHICH OHBA-SENSEI HAS DONE A WONDERFUL JOB OF RECREATING IN THIS HERE MANGA VERSION OF *DOG & SCISSORS*. DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES AWAY FOR A SECOND! BY THE WAY, WHY DO THEY PRONOUNCE IT "COMICS" WITH AN "S" ALL THE TIME? LIKE IT'S PLURAL OR SOMETHING?

HARU: "I NEVER SAID THAT. WHY WOULD YOU MAKE THINGS UP?! AND THIS RIBBON'S THE GIFT-WRAPPING KIND! ARE YOU PLANNING ON WRAPPING ME UP AND SENDING ME SOMEWHERE?! ARE YOU GOING TO SEND ME TO THE DEVIL HIMSELF AS A KIND OF CARE PACKAGE?!"

NATSU: "AAW, ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU WISH I WERE ACTUALLY A BOY, YOU BOYS' LOVE DOG. THEN FROM NOW ON, I'LL START CARRYING AROUND A MANLY MAN AND INTENSE PAIR OF SHEARS THAT I TIE WITH A STRAW ROPE AND CALL EMON SCIS."

HARU: "THE USUAL WAY IS BEST!"

NATSU: "GOOD. THEN LET'S DO THE USUAL WAY OF TORTURE."

HARU: "DID I JUST FALL FOR THAT?!"

NATSU: "TAKE THIS! ME AND HANAKO SCIS, DOUBLE-TEAMING YOU!"

HARU: "UWAAAAAAAAAH!!"

THE RUCKS THIS HUMAN AND DOG CAN CAUSE, DOESN'T CHANGE EVEN IN A "WHAT IF" SCENARIO.

HEROINE (?)
MAIN CHARACTER (DOG)
OOBA-SENSEI, CONGRATULATIONS ON THE COMPILATION OF DOG & SCISSORS!!
BEST REGARDS (HEREAFTER AS WELL) WITH THE ANIME TOO!
鍋島TETU

AFTERWORD

THANK YOU FOR READING!
THIS IS THE CREATOR OF THE MANGA, OOBA.
THANK YOU TO BOTH SARAI-SENSEIS, NABESHIMA-SENSEI, AND SS FOR THE LOVELY ILLUSTRATIONS! SINCE I HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY, HERE IS THE GENDER-BENT VERSION OF OUR CHARACTERS. I TRIED MY HAND AT ALL THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN VOLUME 1, BUT IT TURNED OUT LOOKING LIKE THE COVER FOR A VIDEO GAME FOR GIRLS WHERE "75 PERCENT OF THE TARGET CHARACTERS ARE HOT GIRLS." I'LL KEEP TRYING.
THANK YOU ALWAYS TO MY EDITOR, THE DESIGNERS, THE GRAPHIC ARTISTS, AND ALL MY FRIENDS.
I HOPE WE CAN SEE EACH OTHER IN THE NEXT VOLUME!
KAMON OOBA

DOG & SCISSORS

Volume 1

KADOKAWA MANGA

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INU TO HASAMI WA TSUKAIYOU
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